

A MOST REMARKABLE CHRISTMAS

Peace on earth 50 years ago

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER 1995

# Power chiefs accused over black-out

# State of emergency in Shetlands as blizzards leave thousands cut off

JOJO MOYES AND MATTHEW BRACE

As householders in the north of and that staff cuts and increased Scotland spent their third night profits were to blame. without power, electricity bosses rejected criticism yesterday fected the way the company that they had failed to deploy used to operate in the best inenough staff to cope with the haos caused by the Christmas blizzards. A state of emergency was declared in the Shetlands after the worst storms in living longer has the resources to

It had been claimed that Hyperiod, had been too small to long, cold weekend. react quickly to the blizzards.

Christmas Eve. Thousands of homes were still without power yesterday as and were holding emergency weathermen in the north of meetings every few hours. She Scotland warned that temperatures could drop to minus 20C.

Hundreds of engineers battled to restore power to 5,000

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公债过滤器 📱

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families, many of whom spent a second night without electricity. Shetland was the worst hit with nearly 3,100 customers without power, some of them cut off for 72 hours after pow-

er cables snapped. Shetland islanders said they had not seen such severe snowfails for 50 years. A spokesman for the Shetland coastguard said: "Houses are being swamped by drifts of more than 10ft on some of the islands. We have been running our heliconter almost all day on medical emergencies, getting to people with heart conditions

stranded by the weather."
Nicola Blance, who lives in Lerwick, sand: "We can just get out of our front door but we can t get out of the back. There is snow everywhere. The whole town has been trying to help people who have got stuck."

Among those worst affected by the weather were 24 oil workers trapped in the Sullom Voc coastal oil terminal since Saturday night. Fresh shift workers have been mable to get through the snowhrifts. Man-agers at the BP run terminal were last night planning to ferry in crews by boat as roads were The Labour group on the is-

EN BRIEF

Mandelson hits back

Big top battle

The Labour spin-doctor Peter Mandeison denied claims that

lands' council said the privatised Hydro-Electric was badly prepared for winter emergencies

terests of their customers," said Councillor Roddy Murray (Lax-

cope with emergencies." he said. The Labour group will ask dro-Electric's skeleton staff, on islands MP Calum Macdonald standby over the holiday to demand an inquiry into the

sweeping the country since Electric in Perth said the comsaid even staff on holiday were taking part in the operation to

> But the spokeswoman added that the severe weather had prevented linesmen reaching faults in many areas. "We would strongly refute any suggestion that our workforce was not strong enough to cope - it was simply down to the weather,

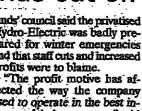
> ing to call on contractors and excavation firms to open roads and allow our men access to power lines. We were prepared for snow over Christmas but the severity has caused serious roblems for everyone.

not to attempt to travel on the At between Berwick-Upon-Iweed and Morpeth in Northumberland because of

100 metres at one stage.
A spokesman for Northumbria Police said: "All the roads around Berwick are dangerous - you are putting your life at risk if you travel on them. The snowploughs have been out for hours but they are losing."

North Yorkshire coast, mainly around the Whitby and Scar-borough areas. A Leeds Weather Centre spokesman said snow ing Lincolnshire and Humber-

Road conditions were deteriorating rapidly in mid and west Wales last night as temperatures plummeted well below freezing. The south of England, which has so far escaped the worst of the weather, was due to be hit



dale) yesterday. "Clearly the company no

- A spokeswoman for Hydrorestore electricity to homes.

"In some areas we are hav

In other parts of the country a man died after a mini-bus it which he was travelling skidded on ice and overturned on the M61 at Bolton, Greater Manchester. His wife suffered seri-

Transport was also thrown into chaos as fresh overnight snow blocked many roads around Grampian and the Highlands, with police warning drivers not to drive unless it was

absolutely necessary.

Drivers were also warned blizzards. Visibility was down to

Snow also blanketed the showers, which are also affect-

side, would continue throughout today. by snow last night in East Angha and London.



White-out: Snow blocks the main road between Scarborough and Whitby, across the North Yorkshire moors yesterday

# Forgotten nuclear dump sparks alert

rom Wii Kif Science Editor

Radioactive material may be leaking from forgotten trenches of nuclear waste dumped at the Sellafield reprocessing site during Britain's atomic

apons programme in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The trenches are believed to be the source of "tritium

springs" - streams discharging radioactive hydrogen on to the beaches at Sellafield. The trenches were covered over with hardcore and asphalt and are currently used as hard-

standing for construction materials and occasionally to park contractors' vehicles. The existence of the trench-

es came to light following inquiries by experts investigating rary records."

clusters of childhood leukaemia Governmen in the area - the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (Comare). But neither Comare, British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) nor the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate was able to say what

> waste dump. A spokesman for BNFL said: The material is mainly low-

was contained in the radioactive

level waste although we cannot time, or the records would be discount the fact that there may be small quantities of solid, intermediate-level waste. We are checking contempo-

Government policy is that intermediate-level waste is so radioactive that it should be disposed of in a highly-engineered repository at least 600m underground, not in a trench, just a few feet below the surface.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate pointed out that when the waste was dumped. the site had Crown Immunity. "We weren't in charge at the

meticulous. It is probable that intermediate-level waste is there, but we don't know. We do not think it is a desirable situation and are discussing with British Nuclear Fuels what steps can be taken.

Earlier this year, Comare was dismayed to discover that it had not been told about an explosion in a waste shaft at Dounreay, in the north of Scotland, which was suspected of being the source of "hot" radioactive particles on the foreshore. The discovery of

Dounreay explosion

there were undisclosed sources of radioactivity at other sites. The committee is worried by the lack of information it has received. The current chairman of

prompted Comare to ask if

Comare, Professor Bryn Bridges, of the University of Sussex, said: "Comare is aware of the existence of this trench and is interested in knowing what it contains but has no further information at this time."

Technically, BNFL has legal responsibility for the trenches because it holds the nuclear site licence for Sellafield. But the trenches contain wastes which

predate not only BNFL but also the UK Atomic Energy Authority. They were created by the foregunger of the Ministry of Defence's procurement executive.

A Comare member said: "There is a general trend that can be seen here. Relevant information is not always laid out in front of you in a way you can made sense of. Although it is cock-up rather than conspiracy, one does find out over a period of time a number of things one would have liked to have

known right at the beginning of

an investigation.

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# Africa floods kil

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

It was a Christmas of death and destruction in KwaZulu-Natal province. At least 130 people were killed in flash floods overnight on Monday when the Umsunduzi river and its main tributary, the Slangspruit, burst their banks due to beavy seasonal rains.

Entire families were swept away with their corrugated iron shacks and meagre possessions when the flood waters hit the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg. The victims all lived in the Imbali squatter settlement next to the Edendaic black township. Police divers and rescue teams spent all day yesterday

pulling bodies out of the river, while distraught residents waded through a sea of mud, scouring the rivers and banks for any sign of missing loved ones. The sound of wailing relatives filled the air as the dead, mostly teenagers and children, were pulled out of the river.

The death toll rose as more bodies were washed up or caught on debris as the flood waters subsided. Scores of people were still unaccounted for late yesterday and police expected the numbers of dead to increase overnight. There also were fears that more rain last night could make the situation The flood followed a politi-

cally motivated massacre on

Christmas morning, making this one of the bloodiest holi-

day periods on record. Police said at least 17 people. including women and an infant. were burnt, shot or hacked to death by hundreds of rampag-ing supporters of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Armed with spears, axes and guns, the Inkatha extremists attacked the Shobashobane settlement, a stronghold of their rivals in President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress. The attackers torched more than 80 homes, shooting and stabbing people as they tried to flee the fires.

It was the third massacre in

the province's south coast on Christmas morning, making political violence in South Africa's most troubled province. The upsurge in violence has

been blamed on a turf war between the ANC and Inkatha in the run-up to local elections in March. Police suspected that yesterday's raid was aimed at pushing ANC supporters out of the Shobashobane through a campaign of terror.

However, the brutality and methods of the killers have also raised suspicions that a socalled "third force" alliance of Inkatha extremists and right-wing security officials might be behind the killings, to destabilise the province and make it ungovernable for President

was heavily watered down. Leaseholders did not receive an

automatic right to buy their

property. From a possible 750,000 leaseholders covered by

the original Bill, the neutered

final Act means less than half

could emerge as freeholders.

The Duke's anxiety to hang

on to his properties can be ex-

plained by his latest accounts.

The property market elsewhere

may be stagnant, but that is not

the case in Mayfair and Bel-

North Audley Street, on the

A two-bedroomed flat in

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# Duke doubles his property profits original term of over 21 years sure from the Duke and other

CHRIS BLACKHURST

be was preparing a right-wine agenda for the party. Page 2 The Duke of Westminster, one Care policy falls A survey shows the Govern-ment's policy of care in the com-Against the backdrop of a continuing depression in the munity for the mentally ill is failing in some areas .- Page

The Moscow State Circus is to sue what it calls "imposters" appearing in Britain without Russ an performers. Page 20 Estate Holdings, show a rise m annual profits from £11m to £20m. The accounts reveal an

of Britain's richest men, has almust doubled his profits from reating out and developing properties in the past year.

increase in "aet rental and oth-

er income" from £29m to £36m.

The company's dividend pay-

national property market, the befty increase is bound to fuel continuing controversy about landlords deriving substantial sums from their tenants. Latest figures filed at Companies House by the Duke's private company, Grosvenor

out was also up, from £1m to £1.8m, and the Duke's salary as chairman climbed from £215,000 to £247,000.

The Duke owns 300 acres of Mayfair and Belgravia in London's West End, one of the most valuable swathes of real estate in the world. He also owns a chunk of Vancouver in Canada and other properties in North America.
His wealth contrasts sharply

with the world to which he introduced his two elder daughters on Christmas Day, when they accompanied him to a Liverpool drug rehabilitation centre. The visit was intended to make the girls aware of poverty and the risks of drug-

Two years ago, the Duke re-



igned from the Conservative Party in protest at government plans to reform leasehold law. Under the proposed legisla-tion, long-lease tenants with an could have required their land- landed gentry, the legislation lords to sell them their freeholds. The Duke was outraged, denouncing the move as "le-

galised expropriation".

One of his arguments was that non-residents would be given the right to buy and overseas investors and property companies who held leases stood to gain large windfall

He was appalled that Con-servatives, whom his family had

historically supported - he had succeeded his father in 1977 as chairman of his Chester constituency - should have con-templated interfering with

Duke's patch, was recently let at £475 per week. A year ago. contracts signed between two willing parties. In the end, after heavy pres-

the same flat was fetching £450 per week.

CONTENTS BUSINESS 16-18 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORDS 2, 20 GAZETTE 9 LISTINGS 9 NEWS 2-7 SALES GUIDE 8 SHARES 18 TELEVISION & RADIO 19

# Mandelson denies right-wing agenda

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Labour MP and former spindoctor-in-chief, Peter Mandelson, vesterday hit back at claims that he was preparing a right-wing agenda to ensure the

party's success in office. A welter of criticism from Labour left-wingers and some shadow Cabinet members Mr Mandelson, MP for Hartle-

pool and close confidant of and Welsh MPs, the abolition of The Blair Revolution: Can stands for and its thinking on a Tony Blair, to publisher Ran-dom House earlier this year. The synopsis attacked by tra-

ditionalists as being far to the right of anything so far considered, gave credit for what the Conservatives have "got right", with suggested chapters raising issues including co-operation between a Labour government and the Liberal Democrats to ensure a longer-term, stable, left-of-centre government, a

universal child benefit, freeing schools from local education authority control and no-strike

deals in the public sector. When Random House decided not go ahead with the project, Mr Mandelson, one of the architects of "new" Labour. and co-author Roger Liddle. former Labour defector, SDP parliamentary candidate and Liberal Democrat, turned to Faber & Faber, which will publish a different, milder, book,

Labour Deliver? in February. Critics claimed the document showed Mr Mandelson, the party's former communications chief, trespassing on other spokesmen's territory and

Mr Mandelson, a spokesman on the Civil Service and a key player in Labour's election team, said: "This book will contribute to the public's understanding of what new Labour

called on the Labour leader to

rein him in.

range of policy issues. It expounds and enlarges upon parpolicy. It doesn't contradict "He added: "With my record I would be the last person to want to do that."

Those of his colleagues who had been "wound up" to react to the book before publication would be "pleasantly surprised" by the finished product.

The book had been written when he was not a fronthencher, but he declared: "Now

I am one I want to continue acting as a politician with a voice of my own in support of party policy rather than as erstwhile spin-doctor and behind-thescenes media man allegedly pulling the strings. People shouldn't try to have it both ways. They say they want me to come out from the shadows with voice of my own and then

complain the moment I do so. Mr Mandelson is one of the Labour leader's closest advisers, rated for his strategic brain

and campaigning skills. His critics claim that even though the synopsis has been dropped it indicates Mr Mandelson's

thinking. But Mr Blair's office stood by him yesterday. The synopsis was written before he became a frontbencher and highlighted areas to be exam-ined in a book that didn't hap-pen. The question is what solutions you come up with," s spokesman said. The new book

ould stick to party policy. Another View, page 15

Mother and child die in house fire

A woman and a two-year-old girl died in a fire yesterday at their home in Llanybri, near

The woman's husband was last night being treated in Mor-riston Hospital, Swansea, for cuts and burns after leaping through a bedroom window and returning to the house through the back door to res-cue the couple's two other daughters, four and five.

Police said they were trying to trace close relatives before identifying the dead woman. 24, and the child.

### Scottish lure

Scotland accounts for three of Britain's top 10 tourist destination towns and cities for overseas visitors, according to the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board. London stayed top in 1994 with 11.46 million "staying visits", but Edinburgh came second with 970,000, and Glasgow had 500,000. Birmingham was fourth, followed by Oxford, York, Cambridge and Manchester joint seventh, Bath and Inverness.

### Dead girl 'had row'

Mhairi Julyan, 16, who was killed on her way home from a oantomime in Kilmarnock on 16 December may have argued with a youth on the night of her death, Stratbelyde police said. A witness has reported seeing a girl answering to Mhairi's description and a youth having now outside the Broomfull Hotel. Police believe the attack was sexually motivated.

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The father of the missing

French teenager Celine Figurd arrived in Britain yesterday to assist police as fears for his daughter's safety grew.

appeal for help from the public today as detectives faunch a fullscale murder hunt for the 19year-old accountancy student who disappeared on Tuesday last week. Celine's mother was too ill to travel and stayed at the family home in central France. Detectives, who are now

working on the basis that Celine has been murdered, have doubled the number of officers involved to more than 100 across three constabularies.

Detective Superintendent



Missing: Fears are growing for safety of Celine Figard

No. 2867 Wednesday 27 December

concise crossword

investigation, said that he was gravely concerned for the stu-

given us as much information as possible to build up a full background. He is suffering anguish and fear for his missing daughter. We will move heaven and

earth to find Celine. Their daughter had been plan-ning to spend Christmas with her cousin at a hotel in the New Forest. Hampshire, where she

worked as a waitress last summer. She had hitch-hiked from Folkestone in Kent and was offered a lift by an English lorry driver at the Chieveley motorway service station on the M4 near Newbury in Berkshire.

Police said the man who picked her up was driving a white Mercedes forry towing a light grey 38 to 40-ton Thermo King refrigerated trailer. Nothing has been heard of her since and the driver has not come forward. Det Supt Thomas said: "It is

There are some very sinister connotations to read into that but there are no reasons why he shouldn't call us if he dropped her off as he said he would."

He said he wanted to hear from anyone who was at the service station between 4pm and 6nm on Tuesday last week.



Gritted teeth: Crowds braving the icy North Sea at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, for the 20th Boxing Day charity dip

Eraser (6) Hindu mystic (5) Jute cloth (7) Tanned hide (7)

11 Backside (4) 12 Outfit (3) 14 Combine (4) 15 Curved structure (4) 18 Evergreen tree (3) 21 Stratagem (4) 23 Annoying (7) 25 Capital of Irag (7) 26 Spring over (5) 27 Dodge (5)

Consequence (6) Swagger (7) Christian festival (8)

Select group (5) Extreme poverty (6) Financial swindler (5) 13 Discuss together (4,4) 16 Lawn game (7) 17 High-pitched voice (6) 19 Irish writer (5) 20 Guard (6) 22 Greek letter (5) 24 Incisiveness (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: Across: 1 Per. 3 Verse (Perverse), 7 Radiates, 8 Idle, 9 Ejector seats, 10 Mosaic, 12 Entire, 14 Disadvantage, 18 Solo, 19 Lacerate, 20 Yield, 21 Day, Down: 1 Placebo, 2 Raise, 3 Visor, 4 Raiment, 5 Eclat, 6 Static, 11 Abalone, 12 Eunice, 13 Resentry, 15 Irony, 16 Valid, 17 Acrid.

# Out and about with AA Roadwatch

# Rifkind hints at future 'goodwill' role for Diana

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday became the first Cabinet minister to signal the Government's readiness to create a new public role for the Princess of Wales in response to her plea to become an "ambassador" for Britain.

But the Foreign Secretary equally emphasised that the Queen would have a veto over any arrangement to give the Princess some kind of formal ambassadorial position.

While Mr Rifkind avoided saying so explicitly, it is also widely understood that the Princess would have to agree to a divorce from Prince Charles before any future public role

The Princess has yet to re-

spond to the Queen's call for the couple to end their mar-riage without delay in the hope that a line can be drawn under their public feuding which is damaging to the monarchy.

Mr Rifkind is the first member of Government to speak out publicly about a new role after the Princess made her bid to be a "goodwill' ambassador in her Panorama interview. He appeared to highlight

Foreign and Commonwealth Office concerns about the precise nature of such a role, and emphasised that the Queen's

wishes would be paramount.
He told BBC radio 4's Today
programme, however: "Ambassador has both a technical meaning but it also has a more general meaning that is some-times used of someone who helps advance the interests of matters."

the country they belong to. These are issues we need to consider and they will be considered quite properly taking into ac-count the wishes of Her Majesty the Queen. That is the single

most important consideration."
Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, made clear last week that John Major supported the Queen's decision to call on Charles and Diana to agree to an early

divorce.
Mr Rifkind stayed off that territory yesterday, but said: "I think we are at a very delicate moment with regard to the future of the Prince and Princess. I don't think it is helpful at this

# Castles may fall to French cash

# JOJO MOYES

Hundreds of years after they first withstood invasion, Eng-land's castles may finally be tak-en over by the French. Work on monuments including Dover Castle, Stonehenge and Hadri-an's Wall is being put out to ten-der and a French-owned company is favourite to win the

£10m contract.
If Sita, a subsidiary of Lyonnaise des Eaux which specialises in refuse collection and waste disposal, wins the three-yearcontract, it will be responsible for maintaining and restoring

400 of Britain's historic build-

ings and monuments.

Lyonnaise des Eaux owns
North East Water and the BMI chain of private hospitals and also has a big holding in General Cable, one of the top five cable companies in Britain.

Yesterday an English Heritage spokesman refused to comment on the bids, describ-ing them as "commercially sensitive" but said that to have a French company bidding for a contract of this kind was "not unusual". The bid follows English Heritage's decision to sell

part of its privatisation process. England's historic monu-ments are not the only institutions to face a Gallic invasion. Two months ago Dover faced being bought up by Calais, its Channel counterpart, as part of government privatisation plans Passions ran high and the Queen Mother wrote to the Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, to make him aware of the strength of local opposition. As Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Queen

Mother is traditionally respon-

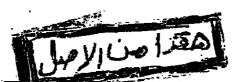
sible for protecting the towns

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SELFRIDGES



Travel wars: Tour operators put new long-haul deals at the forefront of campaign to win business for depressed market

# Pay on return plan to woo holiday makers

Holidaymakers were being to holidays for adults.
counted from all sides yesterday, The Antours move was seen with 15 per cent discounts; low as a bid to grab a bigger share child fares and a special "go of the growing long-haul marnow, pay later" charter for bad ket Industry experts believe that

the travel industry to reduce availability by 10 per cent, to avoid last year's price catting the big operators and travel agents are already vying for a larger share of a depressed

yesterday by offering 10,000 expected source – the Govern-child fares to Florida for £199 ment's decision, five years ago, each and £349 two-week fly-dri-to introduce the Tax Exempt in January and now there are a

wers. long haul - to North America,
Despite a decision within India, Thailand, Africa, South America and the Par East - offers the best opportunity for expansion while traditional buge boost to a market down by Mediterranean destinations as much as 20 to 30 per cent on

There is also a growing ex-

Special Savings Account (Tessa). In the first week of January, 4.3 million people will see the first Tessas mature, releasing £25bn into the economy. Individual savers are likely to recoup a tax-free £12,000 after investing £9,000.

The money could provide a as much as 20 to 30 per cent on last year.

Airtours fired the latest shot market will benefit from an un-Kuoni, said. The timing of

lot of people around with money they would not normally have." The travel agents' organisation, Abta, described the windfall as a godsend.

Yesterday, Aspro Holidays, another Airtours company, put 5,000 summer Mediterranean holidays on sale from £99, as well as 15,000 "child-goes-free"

In the high street, Lunn Poly announced the first "go now, pay later" scheme for travel

fered the chance to make up to four payments up to a year af-

ter returning from their holiday. Peter Povey, Lunn Poly's marketing director, said: "Our research has shown that around one person in four would prefer to spread the cost of their holiday, rather than take a discount.

However, along with rivals Thomas Cook and Going Places, Lunn Poly is offering discounts of up to 15 per cent for those who would like to pay

Thomson, Britain's biggest holiday company, said last-

minute bargain hunters would end up paying more. It has slashed more than £50m from brochure prices but predicted costs would steadily increase.

Thomson managing direc-tor, Charles Newbold, said: We believe that the best prices should be offered to our most loyal customers, those who

until only full-priced holidays

Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, which has reduced prices by up to 15 per cent, said: "We have seen a return of consumer confidence

uary sales to top 2 million.

Among the Lunn Poly deals are holidays provided by Manos, Summer Sun, Sunworld Florida, Sunworld Beach Villas and Twenty's. Destinations range from

Mexico (flight and two weeks accommodation with First Choice for £692) and Cyprus flight and one week with Twen-'s for £269), to seven nights in Ibiza with Thomson for £89.10. Keith Betton, spokesman for the Association of British Trav-

el Agents, said: "The tour op-

post-Budget and with strong erators have reduced capacity bookings, we expect Jan-by 10 per cent this year in orby 10 per cent this year in or-der to increase demand and avoid having to discount as heavily as they did last year.

"Most of the discounts offered at the moment amount to about 10 per cent. It gets silly when they go to 15 per cent, cffectively removing all the profits on holidays, other than the margin on travel insurance. which they make their customers buy.

"All being well, the reduction in capacity should result in a more stable industry and more



# From a hippie haven to a hip destination

The Indian state of Goa was yesterday named as the "best valspread concern over the environmental impact of its tourism,

writes Steve Boggan. previousl
A survey of resorts popular paradise.
with British holidaymakers At the found that Goa was cheaper. Tourism Concern's co-ordinathan any other destination for tor, said: "For several years a range of goods and services Tourism Concern has been from food to petrol.\_.

ducted by Thomas Cook, are concerns over the continuing vilikely to stimulate demand fur \_\_ obtion of local environmental

Benidoon in the making. Durue winter destination" for ing the BBC2 programme, Our holidaymakers, despite wide- Man in Goa, Clive Anderson gave details of chaotic development of 65km of coastline previously regarded as a hippie

At the time, Tricia Barnett. telling tour operators about The results of the survey, con- Goan environmental groups'

number of tourists visiting Goa has increased from 10,000 in 1972 to well over a million in the early Nineties. One reason has been the increased capacity in Goa's main airport, Dabolim, resulting from a runway exten-

Tonrism Concern, which based its charges on a report from the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests listing widespread and "flagrant" breaches of environmental laws by holiday complexes, blames

data on costs.

Among its findings, it estab lished that Majorca and the Canary Islands were inexpensive

trying to stimulate tourism in for sun lotion and Cuba the Goa, but was simply compiling most expensive for spirits.

there is historical evidence to suggest that Goa's growth need not continue exponentially.



# Nursery vouchers 'put places for three-year-olds at risk'

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

or Die

Tens of thousands of three-Tens of thousands of three-year-olds could be turned away voucher-bearing children in or-from nursery schools as a result der to recoup their losses. year-olds could be turned away provide education for all four-year-olds, figures published to-

of Commons library for Stephen can offer comprehensive p Byers, MP for Wallsend and a vision for four-year-olds. member of Labour's frontbench "It is now clear that tens of

therities will have to compete

three out of every seven, curcan offer comprehensive pro-

direction team. thousands of places presently Mr Byers said that the provided for three-year-olds youngest children could be will be put at risk due to the turned away to make room for Government's nursery voucher more four-year olds under the scheme. These figures show Government's worther scheme, why Gillian Shephard has conwhich is due to be tested in four. sistently refused to safeguard

According to the new figures, 6,580 full-time places would be at risk in Birmingham, and more of the Government's plans to The new figures show that than 6,000 in Cleveland and 277,000 three-year-olds, about Leeds. A further 14 authorities could each lose more than 3,000. day reveal.

Up to 133,000 mursery school schools or classes. Mr Byers be places for three-year-olds could lieves that more than half that cation while Cleveland and be put at risk, according to research carried out by the House in the Government state of the country of the House in the control of the country of the House is that the Government analysis calculates the number of places which can be provided with the grant left to each local anthority once the voucher scheme has been financed.

The voucher scheme, which includes £165m of new money in addition to £548m clawed back from local authorities, has already attracted a great deal of criticism because it will divert pilot areas in 1996 and interesting provision for three duced nationally in 1997.

In order to pay for their He said Labour's proposals promise to give a £1,100 mass of nursery education, the to be environment to all passents of monstery education, the to be education and Employment, was reluctant to run the scheme because she believed it would be pose to cut local authorities in the party would offer the professioners for the professioners of the professioners of a fire professioner of a fire purpose.

than half their former level, ery place for every three- and from £963m to £415m. Another their four-year-old whose parent think-tank. Objections from the their fixed will have to compete wanted it, he added.

Minister and his Downing Street think-tank. Objections from the Treasury – which was reluctant to subsidise parents who were already paying for private places - were also brushed aside.

Ministers had planned to run a pilot scheme in 12 areas but only four local authorities
- Norfolk County Council and the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Wandsworth - have

agreed to take part.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment said that the clawback from local authorities was based on the number of fouryear-olds for whom they currently provided places, so three-year-

olds should not be affected. "There is no reason why proshould be affected by the nursery-education voucher scheme for four year-olds. The funding mechanism proposed ensures that local education authorities tinue to recruit the same num-

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# BBC wins seasonal ratings battle

STEVE BOGGAN Chief Reporter

The BBC has might claimed vic-tory in the Christmas Day rat-ings war, spaceting TTV out of all but one of the top 10 viewing positions.
An audience of 16.8 million

for One Foot in the Grave set a standard which saw BBCI and BBC2 amain two thirds of all viewers throughout the day Only one ITV programme made the top 10. Consense in which Coronation Street, which reached sixth place with 11.8

BBC programmes. Even where BBCI and ITV showed the same programme—the Queen's speech—the BBC came out on the second of a two-part East-speech out of the second iop, attracting 11 million view. Enders episode, with 16.1 miles (the eighth-highest audi-lion, and third came Keeping Up ence) compared with IIV's 2.7 Appearances with 16 million. The first part of the East-Second in the ratings came. Enders special came fourth,



Wilson as Victor Meldrew

million; ninth was Noel's Christmas Present, with 10.1 million; and, in joint 10th position, with 9.3 million viewers each, came Auntie's Brand New Bloomers and Only Fools and Horses. A BBC insider seid executives

were deligited with the results, given ITV's larger budget for blockbuster movies. "Yet again, viewers have shown that the

ITV was not in a strong position to argue with the figures. However, Marcus Plantin, the However, Marcus Plantin, the say how much they had spent on ITV network director, said he Christmas Day scheduling.

with 14.3 million; fifth was the Steven Spielberg film, Hook, with 12.1 million; seventh was Indecent Proposal, with 11.3 Christmas Eve. ITV took a 37 per cent share of the available peak-time audience, compared with 30 per cent for the BBC.

The top evening show on Christmas Eve was You've Been Framed, which attracted 10.5 million viewers. According to Mr Plantin, it was the first time in years that ITV had beaten the

companion," she said.

The figures relied upon by the BBC are preliminary raw data assessments put together by the Broadcasters Audience Research Board (Barb) and do not take account of the search Board (Barb) over the first two days of Christ-

mas: It's 1-1" Neither broadcaster would TUC campaign: Dependants of public-sector workers face financial hardship because employers are denying them benefit rights

# Unions call for pension rights for partners

NIC CICUTTI

Thousands of dependants of public-sector employees are being denied pensions when their partners die, a report showed vesterday.

Many face financial hardship because employers are denying them the benefit rights paid to surviving spouses because they were not married to their partner, the Trades Union Congress study said.

The TUC vesterday launched a campaign to win the right for "widows" pensions to be paid to a partner, irrespective of marital status or sexual orientation.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said "The social taboos of living together no longer apply and the [pension] schemes are out of touch with social realities. Unless they change their ways, employees will not ioin a pension scheme, which is not good for our members or the schemes themselves."

The TUC's campaign covers all public-sector unions, including health and local government workers, teachers, fire fighters, and civil servants.

The Police Federation, which

is banned from joining the TUC, is nevertheless backing the campaign, after several cases where a serving officer died on duty but his partner was left with no pension

Union anger has been height-ened by the fact that public-sector pension schemes now lag far behind their private-sector counterparts, many of whose members have enjoyed the right to a pension for years, regardless of whether they are married.

Often, these rights are extended to cover people in samesex relationships who are then classed as "dependants" and paid the same benefits.

More than 3 million publicsector workers pay into their respective schemes. Based on the Government's own figures the TUC report estimates that some 220,000 people are unmarried partners, a number that is expected to grow sharply in the next decade.

In all cases where staff pay into these pension schemes. the level of their contributions is based on the assumption that - if they are married - their dependants will receive a pension should they die.

that 95 per cent of their mem-bers are married and charge them accordingly. Because this percentage has been falling for ears, schemes are effectively saving money by denying un-married dependants a pension.

Among the many private-sector schemes that pay out to unmarried partners are British Telecom, Tate & Lyle, Massey Ferguson, British Petroleum, milever, Boots the chemist, the John Lewis Partnership and the Automobile Association.

However, attempts by publicsector unions to win the same rights for their members have

been spurned by employers.
The TUC said that one of the most important reasons for emloyers rejecting their claims is the moral one. "There is a clear implication that the Government thinks common-law relationships are not 'proper' and that benefits should not be made available," its report claimed yesterday.

The TUC wants members of public-sector schemes to be able to nominate a partner in an "expression of wish form", as used in many private schemes.



Victims: Angela Clarke and her three-year-old son, George. She is excluded from her partner's police pension Photograph: John Angerson/Guzelia

# IESSAS

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# 'Five years together, but I'm left with nothing'

y the day her partner, Gary

Freeman, a serving CID officer in Chesterfield, died while on duty, writes Nic Cicutti.

"That morning, he kissed me goodbye as usual, told me that he loved me and went off to work," she recalls. "At about lunchtime the police came round to the house to say that there had been an accident and he was dead.'

Mr Freeman was a passenger in a car which was involved in Clark discovered, that despite having lived with her partner for five years and the birth of their son, George, she would not be entitled to a police widow's pension.

I was not eligible because we were not married. Gary had been a serving police officer for 19 years and always paid into his pension scheme. "Had we been married I

"A member of the Police Federation called and said that

"Ironically, we were due to marry but we had been forced to postpone the wedding be-cause I was ill at the time. I still

would have preferred to remain at home, looking after her son. "I would have liked to be there to see George growing up. Instead, he goes to a child

"It is immoral that people can be left with nothing because of

a piece of paper. All I have are

Gary and a beautiful son. "But the way we have been treated is like all the time we spent together and the love we shared was for nothing.

en, and a five-year-old daughter. Lauren.

would have been entitled to a pension of about £12,000 a

have my wedding dress in the cupboard." Ms Clark now works part-time as a careers adviser, but

some wonderful memories of

Despite living together for 10 years. Paul Gerber and his partner, Dorothy Garson, made conscious decision not to marry. They stuck by their decision even after the birth of

"We had always operated together as a family and as partners. We shared all household responsibilities, paid our bills to-gether, and agreed that we did not want the extra complications of marriage," says Paul, who works for the National Society for the Protection of Children.



Gerber: 'We had

About two years ago, Dorothy, a social worker in West Glamorgan, was diagnosed as suffering from lym-phoma, a form of cancer. She died last summer, leaving Paul to bring up Adam and Lauren

on his own. "Pensions were an issue we never addressed and in any event, in the last few month Dorothy was so ill we didn't even consider what might happen if she died."

For many years, Dorothy thority pension scheme. Al-though her children will receive a small pension until they become adults, the additional amount payable to a married spouse is not payable to Mr Gerber. "I don't know how much I

might have received - the process of grieving means you are not functioning very well. We are obviously far worse off financially than when Dorothy was alive, because our income

was halved.
"But it is not really a question of the money. It just seems so unfair that people should be discriminated against and pun-ished after death, simply be-

cause they weren't married.

The irony is that these pension schemes are prepared to recognise non-marriage for the purpose of withdrawing pension benefits from a widow or widower if they begin to cohabit with another partner.

"I feel both angry and hopeless because the only reason our family is not getting what it is entitled to is essentially on

# Perplexed in a world of mice and PCs

CHARLES ARTHUR

The voice on the end of the telephone was patient but perplexed: "I've got the foot pedal working, but it doesn't seem to be very sensitive."

Foot pedal? Was the caller

describing an electric organ?
Fortunately, the person taking
the call on the support desk for
a computer maker realised that
the "foot pedal" was in fact a computer mouse, the handheld device used to move a pointer

around the screen. Similar confused calls are Similar confused calls are expected throughout this week as computer-makers open their support lines to provide help to the thousands of people who bought personal computers as Christmas presents this year and spent Christmas Day and yesterday trying to understood the terday trying to understand the

Compaq, along with other makers such as Dell, IBM, and Apple Computer is offering telephone help to home computer users today and for the rest of the week.

Microsoft, which makes the best-selling Windows95 oper-ating system, and which will be on about 90 per cent of new

computers sold this Christmas, expects up to 1,000 calls today. The anticipation stems from the fact that retailers have been forecasting record sales of PCs into the home this year. In the week before Christmas, Dixons was expecting to sell more than 10,000 PCs, and mail-order companies have reported ex-

cellent business.
"I think part of the problem
is that the computer industry
loves buzzwords, but the average person can't follow what they mean," said Sue Sorkin, a product manager at Compag. "We have consciously tried to bring the technical level of in-structions down. In fact, we have won some Plain English Awards

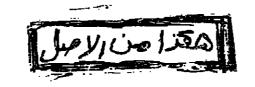
"We're expecting the vast majority to be about Windows95 and how to configure games to run with it," said Microsoft's Steve Caulfield as the lines opened. "Let's be honest, we're not expecting many ques-

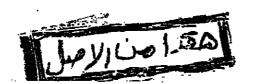
tions about [the financial spreadsheet] Eucl. "His staff of 18 will answer phones from 10 am until 5 pm.

A "multimedia" computer, capable of playing CD-ROMs and with full-bolour acreens, sound and a (handheld) mouse, costs about £1,500. But setting it up so that the various components work to best effect is difficult and has been known to difficult, and has been known to defeat experts, let alone novices, who may find abstruse error messages such as This program has been terminated because it attempted to perform an illegal operation" more than

an illegal operation "note than a little perplexing."

Compaq, which has never before offered telephone support on Boring Day, expected thousands of calls—"about the same as a normal work day." according to Ms Sorkin. "But the problem is that the more that you extend the facility, the you extend the facility, the more people call. The volume of calls from the consumer market is very high." But at least the volume coming from those





# Cold snap sabotages fox-hunters' big day



On the scent: Protesters confront one of the Boxing Day hunts that did go ahead, at Cowdray Park, West Sussex

### JOJO MOYES

Sub-zero temperatures and hunt saboteurs hampered many traditional Boxing Day hunts on the biggest day in the fox-hunting calendar. Hard ground

off, while police reported that hunts. "A fox killed today is the feud erupted between pro- and the freezing conditions had same as one killed any other kept incidents with animal protesters to a minimum.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association said its members and those of the League against

see it as a publicity thing for the

anti-hunt groups as the League day. The Boxing Day meeting Against Cruel Sports launched just serves to make it look like a campaign featuring a dying a traditional postcard scene - we foxhound called Berry, struck by a train during a hunt. Anti-hunt campaigners say it is just one of

caused when out-of-control packs are let loose

The British Field Sports Society said Berry was filmed by a hunt saboteur who had been blowing a hunting horn to try to lure the hound away from the huntsmen's control.

# Health districts 'failing in duty to mentally ill'

**COLIN BROWN** Chief Political Correspondent

Disturbing evidence has emerged that the Government's policy of care in the community for the mentally ill is failing in some areas, despite ministerial warnings to health authorities to tighten up their procedures.

A new survey of authorities shows that in some areas too few resources are being targeted at the severely mentally ill, and that the response to the Govemment's programme for treating patients has been uneven.

Details have been revealed in answers to a letter sent in August by Gerry Malone, the health minister, to all chairmen of National Health Service trust hospitals and health authorities. expressing concern that the response to the Government's care-programme approach remained "patchy" four years afler its introduction.

The Department of Health is still studying the response, but a senior ministerial source said: We have given a commitment to publish the response. The picture is that a majority are doing quite well but there are a small number who are not liv-

ing up to their duties. Stephen Dorrell, the Secre-

tary of State for Health, is expected to announce an initiative remains to be done by health and local authorities working toto answer growing public ungether," he said. ease, but ministers are still un-His warning was prompted by der pressure to call a halt to care in the community. Mr Dorrell is hoping that below-standard a report by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group on Schizophrenia which showed that "a signifhealth authorities will be im-

icant number" of health districts proved by clarifying the rights of mentally ill patients and the "still have some way to go". Mr Malone said: "There are duties of the authorities. now a series of reports, includ-The Government's record on ing both national reports from mental illness has been put in the spotlight by several high-profile bodies such as the Audit Comcases, such as the recent stabbling mission and the CSAG, and local reports into tragic incidents of a GP in his surgery when he went to the aid of a fellow docinvolving mentally ill patients, tor threatened by a patient. Earwhich show quite clearly that lier attempts to allay the public's further urgent work is needed fears about mentally ill patients to deliver good mental health

climbed into a lion's cage.

in the community led to the inservices across the country." He said the areas which re-quired particular attention introduction of statutory supervision orders by the former cluded targeting resources, Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley, which was providing a full range of care. including in-patient care; setting launched in the wake of a number of tragedies including the faup supervision registers; and tal stabbing of Jonathan Zito by managing, training and supera schizophrenic, Christopher

vising staff effectively. Ministers are adamant that Clunis, and the mauling of anthere can be no turning back to other schizophrenic who institutionalised treatment in Mr Malone said the Governthis area. But the appearance of mentally disturbed patients on ment was determined to see the programme fully implemented the streets, particularly at Christmas in the capital, may rein all districts as a matter of urgency. "Although individual ex- inforce public pressure for acamples of good practice were tion.

# Stabbed school head is 1995's man of the people

Headmaster Philip Lawrence, fatally stabbed outside his London school, while helping a pupil who was being attacked, was yesterday named Personality of the Year by BBC Radio

4's Today programme: He received 23,130 of the 77,570 votes cast by the programme's listencis.

His widow, Frances, said she was deeply moved by the award although she believed her husnd, a modest man, wouk have been highly embarrassed.
"One realises the dreadful things are in the minority, that most people were appalled at

what has happened," she said on That is very comforting bewhat we were faced with on that Friday night the world becomes an evil place, but now one can see that it isn't - that it is most-

ly good."
She said the Government



Philip Lawrence: Listeners mbered 'a good man'

cause when one is faced with cember and she called for a forum involving politicians, churchmen and ordinary people to try to re-evaluate where society was going.

It should try to provide a framework of guidance to get

had not gone far enough in its away from what her husband response to the tragedy on 8 Decalled the "obsessive drive for away from what her husband

More romance than

personal possession" and back to spiritual values.

It is not enough to get rid of knives. That won't get rid of violence. We have really got to attack it on a much more basic level. The time is long overdue." The award was welcomed by the head of the Roman Catholic

Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Basil Hume. "I am very moved that the personality of the year should be Philip Lawrence," he told the programme. "He was a good husband, a good father, indeed

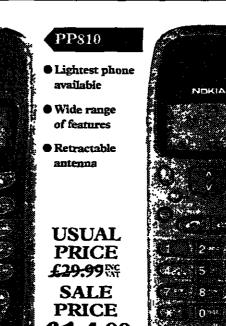
a good man. Runner-up in the poll, for the second year running, was the Prime Minister, who received 18,260 votes. Assassinated Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, was third, the Princess of Wales fourth and the Labour

leader, Tony Blair, was fifth. Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North, said the Philip Lawrence Memorial Fund now

stood at £37,000. Leading article, page 14







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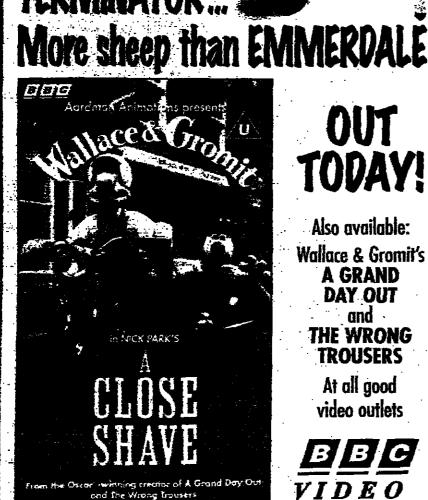
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VIDE O

Bosnia peace plan: Nato commander weighs up request for delay in transfer of suburbs for up to a year beyond deadline

# Serbs demand more time to quit Sarajevo

**EMMA DALY** 

The Nato commander in Bosnia, Admiral Leighton Smith, promised yesterday to consider a Bosnian Serb request for a delay in the transfer of Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo to control by the Bosnian government, as laid down in the Dayton peace plan. But alliance officials said he was unlikely to agree to a substantial postponement of the Dayton

Momeilo Krajisnik, the official standing in for Radovan Karadzic, who is barred from contact with Nato under threat of arrest for war crimes, spoke at length of "problems" around Serb-held Sarajevo and called for a "solution". The first step, he said, would be to delay the

hand-over for up to a year. Admiral Smith refused the request yesterday, but added: "I told Krajisnik we will take into account all aspects of the agreement and we would hopefully render a decision acceptable to

The US commander, making his first visit to Pale, the mountain village serving as Bosnian Serb "capital", expressed satisfaction with progress made in the first week by Nato's peace Implementation Force (I-For).

Serbs living in the five suburbs due to revert to government rule have legitimate fears about life under enemy rule. But it is clear that Mr Krajisnik, who signed the Dayton agreement on the Bosnian Serbs' behalf, hopes to circumvent the plan as it pertains to Sarajevo. He described it as "not a just solution". The Serbs signed only under strong pressure from their mentor. President Slobo-

dan Milosevic of Serbia. "I hope the situation will be clearer very soon and that we shall find a good solution to Saraicvo, and remove one of the basic obstacles to implementation." Mr Krajisnik said in Pale.

"We think that the Dayton agreement must not be put at

all. Other than that, no guarantees were made."

I-For is here, there should be an extension of the transfer of authority in order to bring time to bring a good decision.

Under the plan, both sides are obliged to withdraw front-line positions around the city by midnight tonight, seven days af-ter Nato's arrival on D-Day, 20 December: the Bosnian Serbs are to pull out of the Sarajevo suburbs by "D plus 45" on 3 February. The Bosnian gov-ernment is not due to take control until "D plus 90" and the Serbs want that 45-day period

extended. As to Mr Krajisnik's request for a delay, which might, he said, be for two, three, five, nine or 12 months, Admiral Smith reserved judgement, pending con-

sultation with I-For colleagues. "I didn't say yes or no. Anything is possible," he said, emphasising that while he has no power to re-negotiate Dayton, he is authorised to extend the

Residents of Ilidza. Grbavica, Vogosca, Ilijas and Hadzici, who mistrust Bosnian govern-



ments promises that all except "war criminals" are welcome to stay, have been preparing for an exodus. Cars and trucks loaded with furniture, factory parts and even a few tin coffins bearing corpses exhumed from the local cemeteries, have journey

However, the exhumation last week of several graves was a something of a publicity stunt. Bosnian Serb officials have acknowledged. Permission for further exhumations has been suspended while Serb officials wait to see if the pressure on

An extension of the sort that the Serbs want, amounting to a renegotiation of the deal, is highly unlikely, alliance officials

There will be no tinkering with the time-lines - nobody is going to renegotiate the deal,

I-For's attitude to the Bosnian Serbs has been: you signed the deal, you comply with it. The plan, which splits Bosnia into the Srpska Republic and

the Muslim-Croat Federation, suits most Serbs outside Sarajevo, particularly those in Ban-

Serb power at loggerheads with Pale. But Serb officials persist in pursuing their war goals. They would like the bound-

ary between Republika Srpska and the Federation to go through Sarajevo," the source said. "And that is not going to

# Pope beats flu to greet the faithful

**VERA HALLER** of Reuters

Rome - A tired-looking Pope John Paul gave his holiday greetings to the world yesterday after his Christmas Day celebrations were disrupted by a

bout of influenza. Thank you for coming here today and yesterday, thank you so much," the Pope said, speaking from the window of his private apartments overlooking St Peter's Square. "I wish you, in this Christmas season, a special blessing of the Lord." A Vati-



ing 10 days ago.

INBRIEF

West Bank pull-back goes smoothly

Dahariya - With its troop pull-back in the West Bank entering

its final phase, Israel handed dozens of villages to the Palestinian Authority in a smooth transfer of power. By the weekend,

nearly all Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza will be under Yasser Arafat's control, ahead of planned elections next month that will bring the Palestinians within reach of their decades-long quest for self-determination. In Dahariya, south of Hebron, residents served coffee to the departing Israeli troops and gave them

of 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple found last week

in a remote French Alpine forest clearing. The post-mortem ex-

amination could last several days and will confirm if the bodies are those of eight French and eight Swiss nationals who went miss-

Colombia air crash looks like human error

Washington — Officials investigating the crash of an America n Airlines jet in Colombia have ruled out mechanical trouble or

sabotage and believe human error may have been responsible for

the crash last Wednesday. Although a final conclusion is proba-

bly months away, technicians have inspected two "black box"

recorders recovered from Flight 965 and believe operational er-

Coalition plans to thwart Turkish Islamists

Tansu Ciller: Combined effort

for was the cause, the Washington Post reported.

Reuter

Papandreou in stable condition

Yeltsin rethinks Russian foreign policy

Moscow - President Boris Yeltsin created a new Foreign Poli-

cy Council, a week after parliamentary elections in which Com-

munists and nationalists – who have long opposed the pro-Western stance of the Foreign Ministry – did well. He later met with the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to discuss possible cabi-

net changes. Mr Yeltsin left a sanatorium for his country home,

where he will continue to recuperate from heart problems. AP

Athens - The Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, has

overcome a secondary infection that nearly killed him last week,

and doctors have described his condition as stable. Mr Papan-

dreou, 76, was rushed to hospital with pneumonia on

Ankara - The Turkish Prime

Minister, Tansu Ciller of the

True Path Party, and her main

conservative rival, the Mother-land Party leader Mesut Yilmaz

have agreed to work towards a

coalition to keep the Islamist

Welfare Party from power. The

Welfare party, led by Necmet-tin Erbakan, won general elec-

tions at the weekend but failed

to get enough seats to

govern on its own.

20 November.

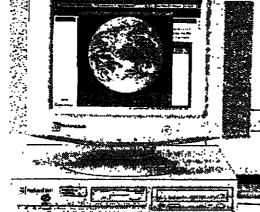
olive branches after 28 years of occupation.

Cult bodies go under the microscope Grenoble - Forensic experts began studying the charred remains

can spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said the Pope, 75, was feeling better, although he still had a slight fever. "Absolutely nothing has changed on his end-of-year programme," Mr Navarro-Valls said, adding that the Pope's doctor had ordered him to rest for a few days.

Yesterday the Pope appeared at the window to deliver an angelus prayer and blessing. He looked tired as he read slowly: his voice wavered and he stumbled over the words at one point. At the end, he resumed his greetings out short on Monday when he stopped his Urbi the world after feeling sick.

On Monday the Pope had said "Happy Christmas" in only Italian, French, English, Spanish, Portuguese. German and Polish, while he had been scheduled to give the greeting in 54 languages. He also missed Christmas Day Mass in St Peter's after his doctors ordered rest for fever and influenza. It was the first time since he became Pope in 1978 that he had missed the Christmas Mass.



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486DX4 75MHz processor. 8Mb RAM, 360Mb hard disk, 10.4" dual scan colou Includes leather case MODEL: 701 DS3

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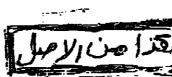
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# news

Mystery cargo: British pilot among captured crewmen

# Foiled arms drop has India puzzled

It does not take long for a capyed

the driver regards of a low-flying merical momentarily in the rice fields nearby. in Gupta, uncle of gril, said, "At around Mpm arcraft passed right over much a deafen-Filen we heard some

If it were not for the girl's accidental death in that country lane, listian police might new er have sumbled upon what an thornes are describing as "an international arms smuggl conspiracy. The parachutes drifted down with a deadly car-go: so far, authorities have discovered 224 AK-47 and AK-56 assault rifles, 17,282 rounds of ammunition, 10 rocket launchers and dozens of grenades, enough for a small revolution in the heart of India.



When police found that the air dropped boxes were filled with weapons, they alerted the Indian military. Two jet fighters were scrambled to force down the antiraft; a Russian-made AN-26, before it crossed into Pakistani ainspace. As the cargo plane taxied in to Bombay airport, the New Zealand copilot, Kim Davy, escaped intothe teeming metropolis, leaving behind his crewmen, five Latvians and a British pilot who were arrested. The pilot was identified as Peter Bleach, a for-

The crew of the chartered aircraft are being interrogated by the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation. Described in the Indian press as "mercenaries", the crew allegedly have confessed to air-dropping the cargo but to little else. The authorities are unsure as to who paid for the weapons and their delivery. At first, suspicions centred on

der, the Ananda Marg, whose "global headquarters" is not far from Purulia district in West Bengal, where the arms were dropped. In a raid on their monastery, 11 Ananda Marg the Far East, picking up the monks have been arrested, including three Americans, a Greek and an Irishman. No arms were found, and the sect has denied any involvement in the arms cache. Some Ananda Marg monks claim they are being harassed by the state's

a secretive Hindu monastic or-

Communist government.
In the lawless borderland of Bengal and Bihar, there are any number of other suspects desperate for arms. This backward area of India is in the throes of a caste war between feudal landlords and peasants. Some outfits call themselves Maoist guerrillas, while others prefer the anarchist tag. But no mat-

everybody has guns. Some of-ficials think the arms might have been used to sabotage elections next April However, most hand-made muskets. They are too poor and lack the international connections for a shopping trips around the arms bazaars of the Far East, as these smugglers have done. Privately some Indian officials are blaming the country's neighbour and foe, Pakistan, for arranging the shipment. The Latvians are said to have spent two months in Karachi before they flew to

apons along the way. New Delhi authorities also pointed out that the plane was bound for Karachi using evasive manoeuvres when it was intercepted by Indian fighter planes. Police set out for a house-tohouse search in villages around

A senior government official, who did not want to be named. told reporters a breakthrough had been made in identifying the intended recipients but declined to identify them.

Purulia for weapons yesterday.

Police suspect local villagers may have recovered some of the arms to sell on the black



who strayed into Northern waters earlier this year. Five others were released unharmed

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NEW

# Fishermen are bait for Korean rice aid

PAUL SHIN of Associated Press

Seoul - Five South Korean fishermen, caught in a political tug-of-war for nearly seven months, made an emotional return home yesterday after being freed by North Korea.

The release appeared to be gesture by the impoverished North to improve relations, which could set the stage for the Communist country to seek more rice aid from the South.

Dressed in suits, the men looked healthy as they crossed the Military Demarcation Line at 4 pm after shaking bands with North Korean military officials and waving farewell. "Thank you; we cannot forget your hospitality," one shouted.

The cremated remains of three crewmen were handed over to South Korean Red Cross representatives. After medical checks, the survivors were reunited with weeping relatives outside the South Korean border village of Panmunjom. One survivor, Park Jae Yol, said: "I never thought I would get back home alive. The fishermen said they had been interrogated but not mis-

Seoul shipped 50,000 tons of rice earlier this year but halted deliveries in October after President Kim Young Sam failed to secure the release of



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# **Bondi revellers** erupt into riot

**REG GRATTON** of Reuters

Sydney -- Rioting came to Bondi beach early yesterday as Australian police clashed with hundreds of Christmas revellers, police said. Two police-men were slightly hurt as officers were struck by bottles, stones and other objects thrown by revellers, many of them drunk, a spokesman said.

There were no arrests but the thousands of pounds worth of damage and tons of rubbish left on the beach prompted official threats to ban the traditional Christmas Day party

The festivities attracted more than 20,000 people, many of them foreigners. The daytime party was peaceful, in contrast to previous years. But scores of riot police were called late on Monday after brawling broke out and crowds attacked a bus and police and private cars. The bus passengers were lucky to escape unburt when revellers tried to overturn the vehicle. The driver escaped by steering his bus through the crowds.

A police spokesman blamed the fighting on "troublemakers" from the suburbs who were looking for violence.

Bondi's police patrol com-

mander, Dick Baker, said he was considering whether to end the annual beach party, which has become a major Christmas attraction in thecity.

Alcohol regulations at the beach could also be considered. he said. "The international backpackers, because of their [party] day, created an audience and this probably caused the

problem," Mr Baker said. A crowd of about 3,000 had converged on Bondi late on Monday after the beach party where tourists, backpackers and locals had gathered in the sun

to drink and frolic in the surf. The wild scenes of previous years were largely absent. thanks to a heavy police presence. The situation changed as night fell and police had to call for reinforcements in riot gear. They cleared the crowds by about 1.30am. Mr Baker said no rioters were arrested, to avoid exacerbating the situation.

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Debenhams Branches throughout England and Wales, 334-348 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-580 3000). General customer information (0171-408 3333), Will last for about two weeks.

Fenwick 63 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161) and stores in Brent Cross. Windsor. Leicester. York. Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells. At Bond Street, Mondi collections will be reduced by 30-50 per cent: Fenn Wright & Manson, Betty Barclay collections by up to 50 per cent, and 30 per cent off Weekend Collections, Reductions at Brent Cross include up to 50 per cent off French Connection, Jacques Vert and Bianca: 50 per cent off leather handbags and selected jewellery by Monet. Ciro and Napier. (Newcastle sale starts

Harvey Nichols 109-125 Knightsbridge, Lon-don SW1 (0171-235 5000). Will last around two to three weeks. Account customers get an additional 10 per cent off the sale price for the first four days. Specific bargains are a secret.

but expect reductions to be up to 50 per cent off selected items

House of Fraser

throughout the store.

store sites, ring 0171-963 2236. Bargains in the cookshop include 40 per cent off Le Creuset cast iron cookware in American green and burgundy—sale and 50 per cent off Judge—days.

100

STARTING TODAY satin stainless steel cookware.

Liberty Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234) and branches nationwide. Join the hordes sniffing out tabric bargains such as printed Armani silk down from £89.95 to £25. Liberty printed silk from £14.95 to £10 and Liberty Veruna wool from £22 to £15. Jean Paul Gaultier jewellery is half price. Pewterframed mirrors are half price from £59 to £29.

Marks & Spencer Customer inquiries (0171-935 4422).End-of-season clearance at branches nationwide.

Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234), Will last about a month, Armchair browsers can check out sale bargains in Selfridges Selection mail order catalogue, available now (0800 101101). The first week is Selfridges' busiest of the year. If you choose to join the 85,000 due through the doors on the first day, expect to battle for discounts from designer labels, furniture and china to carpets.

CLOTHES

100 Regent Street, London WI (0171-734 6090.) Reductions of 50-75 per cent off selected items.

Austin Reed Regent Street, London W1 (England and Wales.) For (0171-734 6789) and nationwide. Will last around two to three weeks. Account customers can take advantage of an extra 5 per cent discount on sale prices on the first three

Joseph 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-823 9500). To beginning of February. Reductions from 30 per cent.

Laura Ashley Branches nationwide. In-quiry number 01686 622116. Began 26 December in Scot-tre. Kingston-upon-Thames,

land. Between 20 per cent and 50 per cent off selected

Racing Green 193 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 4300), 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835 2022). Unit F1. Bentall CenThe Scotch House

SALES GUIDE: WHERE TO FIND WHAT AND WHEN

anguara.

First Day

of Sale

Wednesday

December

2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge. London SW1: 84-86 Regent Street. London W1, and 64 Buchanan Street, Glas-

Inquiries on 0171-581 2151.

SHOES

Church's Branches throughout the country. Central inquiry number is 01323 649408. Some styles reduced by more than 50 per cent. Church Bellini men's shoes down from £199 to £99, ladies' lily-style high-heeled boot reduced from £120 to £60.

Jones Bootmakers country. Inquiry number is items substantially reduced. 01323 649408.

Pied a Terre 32 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171 240 8148) and branches nationwide. Reductions include court shoes reduced from £79 to £40, pumps £65 to £30 and long boots from £95 to £50.

Red or Dead 1 & 23 Thomas Neal's, Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171 240 5576) and branches nationwide. General inquiries (0171-937 3137). Will last for about a month. Selected stock reduced by 50 per cent. Sixtiesstyle knee-length nylon boots in gold, black or rust reduced

Small and Tall Shoe Shop Inquiries (0171 723 5321). To o January. Sale of women's shoes in large or small sizes.

HOMES AND INTERIORS

The General Trading Company, 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225-461507) and 2-4 Dyer Street, Cirencester (01285-652314). To end of January. Save up to 30 per cent on this clear-out. Selected cushions reduced from £52.10 to £36.47, quilted cotton bedspreads from £180 to £135 and Kelim stools from £640 to £500.

Heal's 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666), 234 King's Road and Tunsgate, Guildford.

Look for greatly reduced one-off pieces of furniture that are either shop-soiled, damaged or buyers' samples, along with little luxuries like a Heal's hand-made Avon bed (5ft) reduced from £2.495 to

Purves & Purves 80-81 and 83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-580 8223). Up to 40 per cent off ex-display and discontinued lines. Special orders will be reduced by 10 per cent on items over £500.

MISCELLANEOUS

Buyers & Sellers 120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (0171-229 1947) Dial-a-bargain sale of domes-tic appliances runs from 27 Dec until 31 Jan. The idea is that you name the item -brand model number and ring up for a sale price quotation. Special offers include Neff table dishwashers, £189, De Dietrich stainless steel gas hobs, £117.

The Pier At stores around the country. To 21 January, Customer inquiries 0171-351 7100, Christmas merchandise is reduced to clear. Other merchandise at half price or less includes china ranges, marble kitchen ware, selected terracotta and a range of vases.

The Scotch House 2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1, 84-86 Regent Street, London W1,

Surrey (0181-546 2224). A sale catalogue can be obtained on 0345 331177.

Reductions of 30 to 40 per and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Inquiries on 0171-581 2151. Will last at least a fortnight. Reductions of 30-40 per cent on good quality cashmere and wool jumpers, for example a gold buttoned cashmere cardigan reduced from £235 to

> Snow + Rock 188 Kensingon High Street, London W8 (0171-937 0872) and branches nationwide. To the end of January. Savings of 10 per cent on all accessories Branches throughout the and ski boots with selected

> > ALREADY RUNNING

DEPARTMENT STORES Debenhams (Scottish branches). General customer information 0171-408 3333.

House of Fraser (Scottish branches). Aberdeen (01224 592341), Edinburgh (0131 225 2472), Glasgow (0141 221 3880). To last week of January.

**CLOTHES** 

Christian Lacrorx 8a Sloane Street. London SW1 (0171-235 2400) and 29 Old Bond Street, London WI (0171-409 1994). Discounts of 30 per cent.

Comme des Garçons 59 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-493 1258).

Reductions of up to 40 per cent off all remaining men's and women's collections including Robes de Chambre, Comme des Garcons Tricot and Junya Watanabe.

French Connection 99 Long Acre, London WC2 and branches around the country. General inquiries (0171-580 2507). 30-50 per cent off selected stock.

Unit 17, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-836 9168) and branches nationwide. General customer information 0171-586 5550. Buy your party gear at prices discounted by up to 50 per cent.

Laura Ashley (Scottish branches). Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth. Customer services 01686 622333. Between 20-50 per cent off selected items. Racing Green. 16 Buchanan Street. Glasgow (0141-226

4114). A sale catalogue can be obtained on 0345 331177. Reductions on selected men's and women's classic items of 30 to 60 per cent.

Basement, 4 Brewer Street, London W1 (0171 437 1259). To end of January, 30-50 per cent off Hysteric Glamour (the Japanese answer to "really cool" T-shirts), Judy Blame and

SHOES

Only at 184-188 Oxford Street, London W1. Sale starts at other branches this weekend. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stiletto-heeled

HOMES AND INTERIORS

2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and branches in head, Leeds and Warrington. Up to 50 per cent savings throughout the store including black leather three-seat sofa from £335 to £249.

Rhode Design 65 Cross Street, London N1 (0171-354 9933). Ten per cent of all ranges of mdf kitchen furniture; 60cm wall cupboard reduced from £195 to £175.50. MISCELLANEOUS

The Body Shop First nationwide sale. To 13 January. Customer services 01903-731500. Products range from Seaweed & Birch shampoo (reduced from £1.25 to 60p) to Mamatoto Baby Bottom (reduced from £2 to £1).

Olympus 301 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-409 2619) and at stores nationwide. Discounted goods include the Kastle bike Degree 3.5 - was £299.99, now

> STARTING **TOMORROW**

DEPARTMENT STORES

renwick Sale at the large Newcastle branch starts.

Fortnum & Mason 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8040).

John Lewis Partnership 278-306 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 7711) and at the following branches - Peter Jones, Sloane Square: John Lewis, Brent Cross, Bainbridge, Newcastle; John Lewis, Cheadle; John Lewis, High Wycombe; John Lewis, Aberdeen and John Lewis, Edinburgh.

Will last 10 days. CLOTHES

Space NK

llam start. 41 Thomas Neal's, Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7030) 30 to 40 per cent off designer labels and accessories including Clements Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Alberto Biani, Soap Studio, Liza Bruce and Fenn Wright & Manson.

HOMES AND INTERIORS

Crucial Trading 77 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (0171-221 9000) and 4 St Barnabas Street, Pimlico Green, London SW1 (0171-221 9000). To 28 February. Fifty per cent reduction on certain floor coverings, includ-ing Old School Group Coir (now £6.38/sq m) and Candy Stripe Liquorice Sisal (now £1115) £11.15/sq m). Twenty five per cent off seagrass floorings and a 20 per cent reduction on everything else.

Miscellanea Crossways, Church, Farn-ham, Surrey (01428 714014). To 13 January. Sells decorative bathroom and kitchen objects. Some large discounts, including complete marble bathroom suites reduced from £2,500 to £800.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Pukka Palace 174 Tower Bridge Road, London SEI (0171-234 0000). To 28 January. Twenty per cent off their Anglo-Indian furniture and accessories.

Tridias

From 1 January to 14 February. At 124 Walcot Street, Bath (01255 469455). Ring for other branches. Up to 50 per cent off Croydon, Birmingham, Gates- good-quality toys.



Habitat sale starts today

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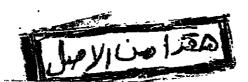
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# gazette/obituaries

# lean Martin

Look up "Maru, Dean" in the club singer. It was during an enindex of one ohis biographies gagement in Atlantic City that and you find I page references he met and formed his partnershing six for Romen, one for first enormously popular on Restic Surgey (an aspiring stage and television, they made prize highten in his youth, Marillo films together, from My in had a brotan nose surgical friend Ima (1949) to Hollywood by reconstructed but none for those directed by stobably his stripted to the index of one ohis biographies probably traitributed to the fact that Mrtin's accomplish ments as bob actor and sinioes constitute femison d'être of the

designed vgive a performance one; and, despite having been as such to was content to lend awarded gold discs for such his pleasait and slothfully laid-quintessentially Fifties ballads back produce to a number of as "Fhat's Amore" and "Memry Lewish a series of record-breaking comedies; in the a solo performer. When his first Sixties girb the so-called Rat film minus his expartner, a Pack tal gravitated around his gastling chum Frank Siria-tra in aquartet of mildly amus ing diersions, all of them, for some mysteriously talis- flop, the vast (and sour) ason, with numbers in their titles (Ocean's 11, Sergents 3, 4 for Texas, Robin and as Seven Hoods) and ap-paretty embarked on as mucitor the cast's pleasure as that of the audience; and in convincing comeback, offering the eventies, as Matt Helm, a trio of impressive dramatic with a barely distinguishable bev of blondes in a cycle of eeble James Bond spin-

To matter what role he was surposed to be playing, howeer, Martin stubbornly renamed his own suntanned, sick if not quite sleazy self ~ Dino, the Midas of glitz, Italo-nity); Vincente Minnelli's styl-American charm cozing forth ish, gaudy melodrama Some from every shiny pore of his handsome, virile yet somehow also puffy-soft features. Even in the westerns in which he specialised late in his career be struck one as an improbably urban, gregarious creature to have strayed so far from a high-ball or a bar stool or a trendy bachelor pad. Indeed, his supernaturally relaxed demeanour proved to be his fortable with his boozy, lecherfortune - it might have been insured at Lloyd's, like Betty it with splendid good-humour

his abortive caperience in the which he was cast as an over-age boxing ring, he was variously a and chronically oversexed nightsteel-mill labourer, a profes- chab singer named, precisely, sional gambler and a night- Dino. But, having displayed 1995.

being those directed by the former cartoonist Frank

"The most sensible thing I constitute floring of the book, it is now the less true marked, "was to join up with that at the less true marked, "was to join up with less true marked, "was to join up with less that at the less true marked, "was to join up with less that at less true marked, "was to join up with less that at less true marked, "was to join up with less that at less that a sensible thing was to leave him." The team's dissolution, regularly threatened over the years by one or other of its members, was an acrimomous one; and, despite having been ever did," Martin once re-marked, "was to join up with sediocre films. In the ories are Made of This", Maringged along with Jertin, the straight man, looked far film minus his ex-partner, a wheezily dated, traveloguish musical set in Rome. Ten Thousand Bedrooms (1957), was a critical and commercial grapevine that is Hollywood definitively wrote him off as a

> Yet, without exactly disappearing from circulation, he contrived to make a remarkably performances: in Edward Dusytryk's The Young Lions (1958: for the privilege of playing opposite Marion Brando and Montgomery Clift he accepted as insultingly nominal a fee as that paid to Sinatra when he revived his fading prestige in From Here to Eter-Came Running (1959, alongside Sinatra and Shirley MacLaine); and Howard Hawks's now classic western Rio Bravo (also

movie actor.

mography only one role deserves mention: it was arguably the most memorable of his entire career. By the mid-Sixties Martin was sufficiently comous swinger's image to satirise in Billy Wilder's salacious com-As a young man, apart from \_'edy Kiss Me, Stupid (1964), in

From his subsequent fil-

this unexpected gift for disarmingly conscious self-parody, he gradually allowed himself to decline into the unconscious self-parody of his very last films, then retired from the cinema in 1975, leaving it much as he had

### . Gilbert Adair

One of the principal reasons for the long popularity of Dean Martin was his ability to kid himself, writes Dick Vosburgh. And yet that "self" was largely an artificial creation.

His singing style, for instance, was, by his own admission, "stolen from Bing Crosby". Then there was his southern drawl, which hardly came naturally to a native of Ohio, a state situated in America's Midwest. But it did differentiate Martin from such rival Crosby imitators of the mid-1930s as Pennsylvania's Perry Como and Canada's Dick Todd.

For his first professional name, he chose the appropriately alcoholic "Dino Martini", but as there was then another Italian singer, the operatic tenor and sometime film star Nino Martini, that name was soon

Even his night-club act, in which he interspersed his songs and patter with sips from a whisky glass, was not his own creation; he bought the act in the late 1950s from Phil Harris. another performer who capitalised on a hard-drinking, womanising image.

That "nose job", which gave Martin his matinée idol profile, was financed, incidentally, by Lou Costello, the short, chubby half of the Abbott and Costello team. During the Second World War, Costello spotted the singer appearing solo in a second-rate night-club and put him under personal contract. This was later galling for the comic when, with Jerry Lewis, Martin made a series of 1950s comedies that eclipsed Abbott and Costello's popularity.

Dino Paul Crocetti (Dean Martin), actor and singer: born Steubenville, Ohio 17 June 1917; married 1940 Betty McDonald (one son, three daughters; marriage dissolved 1947). 1949 Jeanne Biegger (one son, one daughter, and one son de ceased; marriage dissolved), 1973 Cathy Hawn (one son deceased; marriage dissolved 1976); died Beverly Hills 25 December



The Midas of glitz: Martin with Judy Holiday in Vincente Minnelli's film Bells are Ringing, 1960, and (below) with Jerry Lewis, on the Queen Elizabeth, arriving at Southampton in the 1950s



# **Butterfly McQueen**

Acting the role of Prissy, Scar-lett O'Hara's hysterical servant girl in Gone with the Wind (1939), was not a rewarding experience for Butterfly Mc-Queen. "A stupid girl. That's what Prissy was," she later said. "And producer David O. Selznick knew it was a stupid part and I was an intelligent person. However, I did my best. My very best. And Mammy [Hattie McDaniel] told me: You'll never come to Hollywood again. You complain too much.

Butterfly was born Thelma McQueen in 1911 in Tampa. Florida, the daughter of a steve-dore and a domestic. After leaving school she worked as a children's nurse and in a factory before deciding to become an actress. In 1934 she joined Venezuela Jones's Negro Youth Project in Harlem and danced in the "Butterfly Ballet" of their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Later she changed her professional name to Butterfly, and it aptly describes her stage and screen persona. In films like The Women (1939) and Mildred Pierce (1945) the diminutive actress needed no close-ups to assert her presence. With her arms constantly in motion, like a butterfly, she immediately captured audiences' attention Then, when she spoke, she stole the scene with her highpitched voice - once claimed to be higher than a soprano.

McQueen's first film appearance proved to be her most memorable and controversial. For years her role as Prissy in Gone with the Wind was dismissed as an objectionable racial caricature. However, the African-American film historian Donald Bogle acknowledges that, in spite of this, her performance was "marked by fragility, hysteria and absurdity ... a unique combination of

the comic and the pathetic". After appearing as Lillian Gish's servant girl in David O. Selznick's grandiose western Duel in the Sun (1946), Mc-Queen turned her back on Hollywood. She was unhappy playing what she described as handkerchief head" roles. There were no more movie offers. In 1989 she said: "When I wouldn't do Prissy over and over they wouldn't give me any more work. But today young black people come up to me and say you opened doors for us."

After leaving Hollywood Mc-Oucen was forced to work outpartment in New York; a taxi- Georgia 22 December 1995



cab dispatcher in the Bronx, and as a real-life maid to a couple in Atlanta. In the 1970s she dedicated herself to social work projects in Harlem, and furthering her education. At the age of 64 she received a degree from the City College of New York.

There were occasional stage appearances, including the off-Broadway musical The Athenian Touch (1964). In 1978, during a tour of her one-woman show Butterfly McQueen and Friends, she said: "When you get old they want to put you on the shelf and forget about you. If they try to do it to me, I'll just come out singing and dancing and show them I'm not finished up yet." The following year she was awarded an Emmy for her role in The Seven Wishes of a Rich Kid. In 1986, the director Peter Weir cast her in a small role in The Mosquito Coast, starring Harrison Ford. It was her final film. Afterwards she said: "Peter Weir told me to make up my own dialogue but I did it so well he cut it out."

In 1989 McQueen willingly took part in the 50th anniversary celebrations of Gone with the Wind, making numerous personal appearances. She charmed everyone at the Edinburgh Film Festival, and delighted British television audiences in an interview with Terry Wogan. But she always made it clear that she hated the role of Prissy: "I was suffering the whole time," she said. " didn't know that I'd have to be just a stupid little slave. I wouldn't let Vivien Leigh slap me, and I wouldn't eat watermelon. I was very sensitive about that. Of course, thinking about it now. I could have had fun eating that watermelon and spitting out the pips while everyone went by!"

Stephen Bourne

side the acting profession. Her Thelma (Butterfly) McQueen. many jobs included being a actress: born Tampa. Florida 8 sales assistant in Macv's toy de- January 1911; died Augusta.

# Births, Marriages & Deaths

**DEATHS** 

GUMBELL: H. Edward, dearly loved hisband, father and grandfather, peacefully at home on 23 December. Peneral at St Martin's Church, East Horsley, at 10am, Saturday 30 De-cember. No flowers please.

Amountements for Gaintin RIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DRATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Welding amovernaties, In Memorium) abould be sent in writing to the Gazetie Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Camary Wharf, Lon-don E14 SDL, telephoned to 9171-293 2811 or found to 9171-293 2019, and are 2011 or regard to 01/1-253 July, amount changed at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette amnouncements (notices, functions, Partheonthig murriages, Marriages) most be submitted in writing (or funct) and are charged at \$10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

RAF promotions Air Marshal Sir John Allison, pro-moted Air Chief Marshal, and to be

moted Air Cinet Marshal, and to be Air Officer Command/Air Member for Logistics Command/Air Member for Logistics. Air Vice Marshal G.A. Robertson, promoted Air Marshal, and to be Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander to Chief Strike Com-mand.

Air Vice Marshal P.T. Squire, par-moted Air Marshal, and to be Deputy Chief of the Defence (Pares and Personnel).

Changing of the Guard

The Homehold Cavairy Mounted Replaced
thousant the Queen's Life Guard at Harve Guards.

# Birthdays

Mr Hugh Arbuthaott, ambassador to ark, 59; Mrs Anne Armstrong, former US ambassador to Britain, 68: Viscount Astor, former government minister, 44; Mr Christopher Ben-jamin, actor, 61; Sir Gordon Brunjamin, actor, 61; Sir Gordon Brunton, company chairman, 74; M
Gérard Depardieu, actor, 47; Sir
Thomas Devitt, former rugby player and shipbroker, 93; Lord Griffiths
of Pforestfach, director, Times Newpapers Ltd, 54; Air Chief Marshal Sir
Denek Hodgkinson, former Air Secnetary, 78; Mr Mick Jones, nock musician, 54; Viscount Knutsford,
former South West Regional Direcformer South West Regional Direc-tor, Barclays Bank, 69; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, 61; Professor Donald Northcote, plant biochemist, 74; Mr Mike Pender, rock singer, 53; Sir William Purves, chairman, Mid-land Bank, 64; Mr Pater Quaife, rock classical scholar, 76; Sir Norman Reid, former Director of the Tate Gallery, 80; Dr Edward Salthouse, Master, University College, Durham, 60; Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, P & O, 61; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster and writer, 49; The Right Rev Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, 50; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhit, former Di-rector of the WRAC, 92.

Anniversaries Births: Johannes Kepler, as-tronomer, 1871; Jakob Bernoulli, mathematician, 1654; Sir George Cayley, aeronautics pioneet, 1773; Alexander Gondon Laing, explorer, 1793; Sir John Goss, organist and cosmoser, 1800; Louis Pasteur, chembr and bacteriologis, 1822; Sir Markenzie Bowell, statesman, 1823. Mackenzie Bowell statesman, 1823; neaccentre nowes, statesman, 1825; Sir William Henry Hadow, educa-tionist and musical actiolar, 1859; Syd-ney Greenstreet, actor, 1878; Louis Bromfield, noweist, 1896; Carl Zurk-

etrich (Maria Magdalena Dietrich), actress, 1901; Oscar Levant, popular composer and pianist, 1906. Deaths: Pierre de Ronsard, poet, 1585; Hyarimbe-Franços Honoré-Mathias Pierre-Martyr André-Jean Rigaud, painter, 1743; Joanna Southcott, religious fanatic, 1814; Charles Lamb, anthor and essayist, 1834; Charles Martin Hall, chemist and manufacmirer, 1914; William Archer, dramatic critic and playwright, 1924; Sergei Aleksandrovich Esenin, poet, com-mitted suicide 1925; Anatoli Vasilievich Lunacharsky, Russian leader and writer, 1933; Sir James Sexton, trade union leader, 1938; Amy Marcy Cheney Beach, composer and planist; Nokrashy Pasha, Egyptian prime minister, assassinated 1948; Max Beckmann, expressionis painter, 1950; Lester Bowles Pearson, statesman, 1972; Houari Boumedienne (Mohammed ben Brahim Boukharrouba), statesman, 1978; Howard Hoagland (Hoagy) Carmichael, composer, singer and pi-anist, 1981. On this day: the island of St Helena was chartered to the East India Company, 1673, England and Portugal signed the Methuen Treaty giving preference to Por-tuguese wines, 1703; the French in-vaded Holland, 1794; Charles Darwin set sail for a world woyage on HMS Beagle, 1831; J.M. Barrie's play Peter Pun was first performed, Lou-Peter Pan was first performed, London 1904; the Globe Theatre, London, opened as the Hicks Theatre, 1906; Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party, 1927; violent earthquakes in Anatolia, Turkey, resulted in over 10,000 deaths, 1939; the International Monoceans, 1939; the international Mor-etary Fund was set up in Washington, 1945; Archbishop Jozef Mindszenty was gressed in Hungary and sen-tenced to life imprisonment, 1948; the BP oil-rig Sea Gem capsized in the North Sea and sank with the loss of 12 lines 1965; Seate because 4 of 13 lives, 1965; Spain became a democracy after 40 years of dicta-torship, 1978; President Hafizullah

Amin of Afghanistan was overthrown after a Russian-sponsored coup d'état, 1979. Today is the Feast Day of St Fabiola, St John the Evangelist, St Nicarete and Saints Theodore and Theophanes Graptoi.

# Royal College of

Radiologists The following have been elected of-ficers of the Royal College of Radiologists for 1995-96:

ologists for 1995-96:
President, Dr M.J. Brindle; Tressurer, Mr G.
de Lacey, Vice-President and Dean of the Facntly of Clinical Oncology, Dr M.F. Spittle; Worden of the Fellowship and Warden of the
Faculty of Clinical Rottology, Dr R.D. Hunter,
Registrar of the College and Registrar of the
Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Dr R.D. Hunter,
Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Dr
I. Watt; Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Professor P. Armstrong, Editor of the
Faculty of Clinical Radiology, Dr R. Reznelt;
Registrar of the Faculty of Clinical Oncology,
Dr T.J. Priestman; Editor of the Faculty
of Clinical Oncology, Dr W.G. Jones.

Church appointments The Ven Michael Stanley Till, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Canon Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral, to be Dean of Winches-

identiary and Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, diocese of Landon, to be Suffragan Bishop of Stafford, diocese of Lichfield.

The Right Rev Richard Hawkins, Suffragan Bishop of Plymouth, diocese of Exeter, to be Suffragan Bishop of Crediton, same diocese.

Professor Sir David Waldron Smithers, of Ringfield, Kent, Pro-fessor of Radiotherapy at London University and Director, Radiotherapy Department, Royal Marsden Hospital 1943-73, left estate valued

A few years ago there was a man who had to leave home for a few days on business. His wife was to look after their four young children by herself, so the man devised a plan to help her. He said to his oldest son: When I'm gone, I want you to think what I would normally do, and you do it instead of me." The son agreed; the father went

off on his trip. When he returned, he asked his wife what the oldest son had done in his ab-sence. "Well," she said, "it was very strange. Straight after breakfast he made himself a large mug of coffee, put some loud music on the stereo, and sat down to read the newspaper for an hour." And the father was left to ponder whether or not the son had obeyed his instructions.

Not many children these days, in this country, follow parents into a family business. But there are many parts of the world where it still happens. The father learnt the trade from his father, who got it from his; and he passes it on to the son. No doubt each of them learns a few new tricks as well; but the basic skills of the trade are transmitted from generation to generation. Mostly this doesn't happen verbally. The son watches to see what the father does. Then he has a shot at doing it as well. At the end of the day, if you watch the son, you'll see the true reflection of

The Christmas gospel focuses on the ap-prentice son of the God whom he called Father. Throughout John's Gospel, we see Jesus doing what he sees his Father do-ing. That's the explanation he gives for his strange and sometimes shocking behav-iour. And John, writing his Gospel, intends us to watch the entire life of Jesus, from his puzzling birth to his appalling death,

# Meanings of Christmas

The apprenticeship of the son of God

Today's Christmas sermon is a shortened version of that preached at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve by the Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev Tom Wright.

and to recognise in it a true reflection of what the Father is up to. "No one has ever seen God," he writes. "God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart - he has made him known,"

Now, if this doesn't come as a shock, we haven't yet got the point. Most people today still have a high-and-dry view of God – a distant being, maintaining a dignified distance, never getting his hands dirty in the real world. But what if those hands turn out to be little and chubby, just big enough to grasp your finger? Most peo-ple would imagine that, if God were to speak, he would have a loud booming voice, giving orders from a great height. But what if God's voice were the small, quick, plaintive cries of a hungry baby?

A newspaper survey recently revealed that a very high proportion of the British population say they believe in God - but only a very small proportion go to church. Some journalists expressed surprise at this.
But the key question is: which God is it that we can join in.

they believe in? If it's the high-and-dry, distant, detached God. it's frankly not surprising they don't go to church. It's hardly worth getting out of bed for that "god". But the real God, the blazing Word.

confronted the smouldering embers of the powers that be. They reacted in fear and anger. They killed the Word-made-flesh. But the fire blazed out again three days later, with the news that this death was the great act of the creator's love. No one has seen God: but God the only Son copied his Father to the very end, acting out and embodying the deep, fiery love of the

I was speaking in a church in Walsall a few weeks ago, when a woman who had worshipped there for a good many years came up to me with the question. How should I think of God when I pray? Lost for an answer, I asked her how she, had been accustomed to think of God. Well, she said, when I was young I used to think of God as a very, very old man, up in the sky, with a long white beard. Then when I got older I didn't find that very helpful. And now? I asked. Oh. she said, now I just think of Jesus.

She explained: there comes a point in your life when you suddenly notice that the policemen are younger than you are. Yes. I said, pushing my luck a bit; and maybe there comes a point when you re-alise that even the bishops are younger than you are. Yes, she said: and I suppose that what Christmas is about is realising that God is younger than I am.

She was right. I guess that's why the angels sing: from sheer exuberant astonishment and delight, as they recognise God the Only Son. And we're here tonight so

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

WEST END: © ACT VERSIERS WHEN BUTCHE CHUS (PC) The pot detector is back with a minute to recent the Advisor Wilds bad. Conform Fixture Flore Private 215, 4-01, 7 th, 9 th Fallance Road MCM 2 th, 4-36, 7 th, 9 30; Technico MCM 1210, 1182, 220, 230, 500, 600, 725, R.2., 9-00; Octoon High Sance Resources 1225, 2-46, 5:08, 725, 9-45; Wilsons Pless End. 1216, 12-26, 1-26,

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THE 12-10 1.45, 2.15, 4.10, 4.40, 6.30, 7100, 4.45, 9.15

WHE MARKETCHE PRESENCE (15) The president fails for an emissionnessis lothyte. Early Leavest Square 1.00, 3.25, 6.40, 2.35, Failmen Renal REGH 1.10, 3.59, 6.40, 9.20. Broaden MEM 12-9, 3.15, 6.40, 8.20. Broaden MEM 12-9, 3.15, 8.00. Broaden 12-9, 3.15, 3.15, 8.00. Broaden 12-9, 3.15, 3.15, 4.15, 6.45, 6.55, 6.4

2.45. Reham Road MGM 210, 4.10, 6.10

220, 430, 650, 920
LR BELLE ET LABETE (PG) Jean Content's closic version of the funy-trie. Elect Omerat 455, 705, 915

B THE BLISK HEWINGER (15) A motley colonism of secon meet to rehearst their production of slamber. Bushing Corp. Science 8, 07, Tournium Court Road MGM 1.45, 4.15, 6.55, 9.30, Odeon Higgsmarket 6.30, 8.57, Odeon High Steer Recognition 2.10, 4.35, 7.00, 9.25, Riny Circum 4.40, 031

Batheriesky (15) Red Gibron directs and → Putry Chroma 4.40, 605

• MANUSCRIP (15) Red Gibero directs and stars as the 14th century Scottish here William Wellings, Deleter Mezzunias, Loicester Square 7.40, Plaza 12.30, 400, 7.30

THE BRIDGES OF MANUSCRIP COUNTY (12) Clinic Enginees of directs and ones, Warner West End 8.20

THE SHOTHERS WELFALLER (15) Three ● THE SHOULDESS WELDERS (15) Three firsts American revolutes are statuted by the death of thear father. Gare Northly #12.50, 500, 705, 9.10, Launiere 2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55; Ricy Classes 2.25, 4.35, 7.00, 9.15
COMMISSION (18) A holomolou actor in Victorian England yets closer to the man she lyste by matrying his gay lover. Passon Street MGM 2.15, 5.40, 9.00
GRY W 1831 CHEDSSM (15) A man highways children to steel their dreams. MCM Switz Cause 2.10, 4.30, 6.55, 9.25

GUBBESS (12) Privileged brass have anxiery attacks ower their wardrobe and 12.20, 2.20, 4.20, 6.20

Grant 12.00, 2.30, 4.20, 6.20 between the files.

Chicken MGH 6.25, 9.15, Odeon High Sweet Kentington 9.40. Odeon Meanting, Leicenter Square, 2.45, 8.35

Elifa (15) A feinty yearsy woman who was almodosed as a yearsy citid is determined to find her father and gain her tevenage. MGM Switzs Centre 1.55, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15

Philametal (15) Bloptic of an 18th century custrato singer. MGM Switzs Centre 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 9.25, Tentury Custrato singer. MGM Switzs Centre 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 9.26, Tentury Info Meanting Control Road MGTH 1.50, 4.25, 7.70, 9.35, 7the Mineron 3.00, 6.30, 8.45, Odeon. High Sweet Kessington 9.40

FORE BURGES (18) A freezincy hotel bell boy

THOST IN THE SHELL (15) Japanese submu-tion about a futuristic city that is dominated by a mysterious computer backer. Tocastero MGM 4.35, 6.30, 8.35

• RELIGIENTE [12] James Bood reincarnated by Piezro Brogson. Barbitim Cinema 6.00, 84th Balar Swert MEM 2.10, 5.10, 8.10; Cleben MCM 12.50, 3.35, 6.20, 9.10; Fallour Road MCM 12.50, 3.35, 6.20, 9.10; Fallour Road MCM 12.55, 3.40, 6.25, 9.15; Odeon Leiceur Spiezre 12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.00; Odeon Leiceur Spiezre 11.50em, 8.50; Swin 12.30, 3.10, 6.00, 9.20
12.40, 3.10, 6.00, 9.20
12.40, 3.10, 5.00 of the excellating

12.20, 3.10, 6.00, 9.20

IA MMIE (15) Depiction of the establing tensions of a group of establically mixed tensions of the Hill 9,10

THE BERMAI BI THE GEP-BERM (PG) Children's adventure shout a toy indian that comes to life. Capitum Ficture House 1.00, 5.00, 6.30. Checker MGM 12.30, 2.40, 4.50, 7.00. Outcom High Street Americans of Parcon, 2.25, 4.50, 7.15; Swine Contage Outcom 1.52, 4.50, 7.00, Coldent Mixed Mixed Lencitor Square 8.20

BERK (15) An Improved Statement of the Street Square 8.20

Addition of the control of the contr terms in operation (12) for the Shift from-lations of a director experiencing a cata-strophic day's fitting. Passen St MGM 2.10, 4.40, 7.15, 9.3%. Seem on the Green 2.35 The matters of tails GEDBEE (PG) Alan Bennett's convery about George III's spell of insants. MGM Swiss Center 2.00, 4.40, 6.45, 2 to 2.00. ◆ MINIOUS IN THE FIRST (15) An idealstic vixing lawyer's first case is to defend an Alcarazz prisoner. Chebon MGM 9.30: Hammarket MGM 2.00, 5.05, 8.10; Soury Counge Union 7.25, 6.15, 8.40; UCT Whitelever Firster for times, Warner West End 12.45, 2.25, 6.05, 9.00; MY PARLINE CLEMENTEE (U) Re-release of the 1946 Caswic western starring Heart Vivines, Manuel VIV. 2.25, 6.45, 9.00; MORROW C. 2.25, 4.35, 6.45, 9.00; MANUAL C. 2.25, 4.35, 9.00; MANUAL C. 2.25, 9.00; MA

5.25, 3.25; Scrien on the 18th 2-45, 4.55, 7.00

THE SMITA GLABSE (U) Tim Allen store as a non-believer who is furced to take Father Cryptoc. Chelieve MCM 12:35, 2-45, 4.35; 1.30; Choon Figh Sever Resimpton 1.30; 4.15, 6.50; Odeon Print Bert Cheuseur Symme 8-45; UCI Whiteleys 11, 20am, 1.20, 3.50, 6.10, 8.40

THE SCRIET LETTER (15) Remarker of the Classic Americans goved. Oxford Mechanille. Leiceter Symme 8-25

REMISSIAN TREBS (15) Generator the set in

REMISHER TRADE (15) Gaugater flic set at 1930s China Curson West End 1.00, 3.30,

● THE SERUTTER (18) Dolph Landgren stars as a CIA agent who follows a would-be presidented assess. Throaden MGM 9.15
THE SERSHE BURGERS TREE (IV) (public+1)
Ricy Chemia 2:00 + Babe
SSSTER, By SSSTER (15) A tale of innestituus housemaids. Piecaelily MGM 1:30, 3:45, 6:10.
8:40

8.40
THE SWAN PROFICES (U) Aromated adaptation of Swan Lake, with the voices of John Cleene and Jack Palance. Trocadero MGM 12.25, 2.30: UCT Whiteless 11.30, 1.45 12.5. 1.30: UCT Whiteleys 11.30, 1.45

TREBEE WESSIES (PG) The Holmson Lamby are an dire need of a mirracle. Tracadern MGM

12.50, 3.30: Warner West End 2.10, 2.30, 4.50

→ THE TE TRUE SHEES: (18) A young adopted girl is faced with her violent blood father.

Plean 1.30, 4.05, 6.73, 8.35

→ TO DEE FOR (15) Nicole Kickman plays as munderous TV star. Homanizer MGM 2.20, 5.25, 8.30; Odeon Merzonine, Leiecsier Source Kick Warner West End 1.10, 3.20, 5.50, 6.30

TO WORDS FOR (PG) Patrick Source & 1.4 drag.

TO WORG FOR (PG) Patrick Swayze as a drag queen. Plane 3.55, 8.40 SIDER SIEGE 2: DARK TERRITORY (18) Steven Scagal again starring as the navy cook com-mando. Warner West End 7,10, 9,40 mannon warner were cong 1,10, 3,40 membrane BERGES (PG) A 12 year-old ben escapes the arminists of life by sarying with his eccentric uncles. Totanhum Court Read MGM 205, 435, 700, 935; Noting Hill Corone 200, 410, 630, 845; Rusy Cinema 230, 655

● THE BSBAL SHSPECTS (18) Unusual thriber. Parton Speet MGM 2.05, 4.30, 7.00, 9.25; Warner West End 1.35, 4.05, 6.25, 9.20 A WALE IN THE CLOUDS (PG) Keams Receyes stats. Odeon Memorine, Leopster Square 8,45 WHEN INTERT IS THANKS (18) Romanus networn a Christem academic and a circus per former. *Perceptile MGM* 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40

839 7077; Odann High St. Ken ULCD-6 Istnon. Odeon Leicenter Square 930 2525; Odeon Marble Arch 01/30-918/91; Odeon Meeza-nine. Leic Sq 01/20-918/01; Odeon Meeza-nine. Leic Sq 01/20-918/01; Odeon West End Leic Sq 930 552; Pleary 090-98/90/1; Remin 877 8402; Rachmond Flimba was 0181-332 00/01; Runy Chemin 737-372; Serven on Balor Sarcet 935 2772; Serven on the Green 270

# repertory cinemas

London

EVERTMAN opposite Hampstood Tube NW3 (0) (1430-1535)
Dead Men Don't Wear Pland (15) (120pm +
Double Indemnit (PG) Jym La Belle et la
Bete (PG) Sym, Jym, Sym

BFT South Bank SE1 (0) (7) (28, 3232) art south Bank Sh. (1171-03: 323.)
La Belle et la Bene 196.) 4/m. 7,349m Bat-man Forever (PG) 4/1/m. Partran In Black n 15pm While You Were Sleeping (PC) n 3/m Hold Mr. Timi Mr. Kim Mr. 180 8-2/m: Sn Degraes Of Separation (15)

6.45pm PHOSEET High Road N2 (0181-883-2233) The Usual Suspe Number 10 (19) One or The Usual Suspects (18) Dieger While You Were Steeping (PG) 4.40pm City Of Loss Children (15) 0.50pm Lang in Oblivion (18) 6 fpm.

Lang in Oblivion (18) 6 fpm.

Punite CRARLES Linear Place (0171-57 804)

The Punit (15) 1-30pm The Shawshank

Redemption (15) 4-7m While You Were

Steeping (PG) 7-m Due Hard: With A

Vengemor (15) 9 fpm.

Vengemer (2) N. Spot BBC Kingshad High St (017) 254 (2077) Babe (1) Libra A. Spot and Spot 2. Spot WATERMARS ARTS CONTROL High Street Breatherd TWS (018) 568 (170) Presidential (1) J. Spot 2. Spot 5. Spot Lad. And Santh (15) Jose Son Mentles (12) Spot

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June-21 July

8 May

, 22 May



# MORPENDENT

# ianuary

- Darts Embassy World Championships, Frimley Green, Surrey nds Men's tournament. Adelaide: women's tournament. Auckland (to 7)
- Criciont South Africa v England, Fifth Test (to 6), Newlands, Cape Town
- Hockey Italy v Great Britain (first match) Cagliari
- Speed skating British Short Track Championships Guildford Golf Apollo Week (to 12). San Roque, Spain
- Football FA Cup, third round Котпран Енгореан Champion Clubs' Championships (to 7), Crystal Palace Sailing Cape Town to Rio de Janeiro cace starts. **Skiing** Alpine World Cup (to 7), men's slalom and giant statom, Flachau, Austria: women's slalom and giant slaiom, Maribor, Slovenia
- **Tennis** European Indoor Championships (to 12). Secfeld, Austria Hockey Italy v Great Britam. Cagliari
- Tennis Men's tournaments. Sydney, Jakarta and Auckland: women's tournament, Sydney (to 14)
- Cricket South Africa v England. First one-day international, day-night Newlands, Cape Town Squash National Championships (to 15) (venue tha)
- 10 Football Coca-Cola Cup. fifth round
- Cricket South Africa v England, second one-day international day-night. Springbok Park. Bloemfontein
- 12 Baskethall 7-up Trophy Final, Birmingham Skiling Alpine World Cup (to 14), two men's downhil statom and combined. Kitzhühel, Austria
- 13 Cricket South Africa v England, third one-day international, Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg Rugby League Regal Trophy Final, Huddersfield Hockey Great Britain Malaysia, Bisham Abbey Horse racing Victor Chandler Chase, Ascot Skiling Alpine World Cup (to 14), women's stalom and super-giant, Garmisch-
- 14 Cricket South Africa v England, fourth one-day international Centurion Park, Pretoria Cyclo-cross National championships. Sumon Park, Birmingham **Hocigay** Great Britain v Malaysia, (second match). Bisham Abbey Salling Key West-Mumm '36 race week (to 19). Florida
- Tennis Australian Open 5 Championships (to 28). Flinders Park, Melbourne
- 16 Skiling Alpine World Cup. men's giant slalom, Adelboden, Switzerland
- Cricket South Africa v England, lifth one-day international, day-night Kingsmead, Durban
- 19 Cricket South Africa v England, sixth one-day international, day-night Buffalo Park, East London **Hockey** Men's Olympic qualifying tournament (to 29), Barcelona Skilling Alpine World Cup (to 21), two men's downhills, statem and combined. Wengen. downhills and giant slaiom, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy Speed skating European Championships (to 21). Heerenveen, Netherlands
- 20 Ragby Union Five Nations Championship, France v England, Paris: Ireland v Scotland, Dublin Religing Monte Carlo Rally (to 27)
  Football FA Trophy, first ed sicating European Short Track Championships (to 21), Obersidorf, Germany Resistation Japan Open
- Cricket South Africa v 21 Gricket South Airica v England, seventh one-day international. St George's Park, Port Elizabeth thieties Houston marathor
- 22 Figure skating European Championships (1978) See Championships (to 28). Solia Bobsleigh European Championships and World Cup Final (to 28). St Moritz
- 23 Skiling Alpine World Cup. men's super-giant, Valloire, France Sailing Olympic classes
- regatta (to 28), Miami 24 Football International date

er:

- 25 Golf Johnnie Walker Classic (to 28), Tanah Merah, Singapore
- 26 Hockey Eight Europe Nations Cup for women, indoor. (to 28) Glasgow Skiing Alpine World Cup (to 27), men's and women's downhills and floodlit slaloms, Sestriere, Italy
- Football FA Cup fourth bauor Athletics Great Britain v Russia, Birmingham Rugby Union Pilkington Cup. fifth round Fencing British Ende Championships, London Netball Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland
- 28 American football
  Superbowl XXX. Sun Devil Stadium, Pheonix annis Men's tournaments. Shanghai, Geneva (to 4 Feb) Skiing Alpine World Cup. women's slalom. Megeve-St Gervaix, France
- Skiling British Championships (to 2 Feb), St Moritz, Switzerland

### february Golf Heineken Classic

- (to 4). The Vines, Perth. Western Australia
- Rugby Union Five Nations' Championship. England v Wales. Twickenham: Scotland v France, Murrayfield Athletics National Indoor Championships (to 4), Birmingham Skiing Alpine World Cup (to 4), men's downhill and super-giant, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany: women's downhill and super-giant Crans Montana, Switzerland Cyclo-cross World Championships (to 4). France
- Snooker Benson & Hedges Masters (to 11), Wembley
- Boxing England v South Africa, Royal Lancuster Hotel, London
- Football International date
- Sailing 470 World Championship (to 17). Porto Alegre, Brazil

Hockey Induor Club

- Championshop Final, Crystal Palace ntis Davis Cup, first hauen World Championships (to
  - Ski jumping World Cup and
- 10 Football FA Trophy. second round Nethall Scotland v Wales Horse racing Tote Gold Trophy, Newbury Skiing Alpine World Cup. men's giant slalom, Hinterstuder, Austria **Bobsleigh** World Championships (to 25), Calgary, Canada
- Football Coca-Cola Cup, semi-tipal tinal, first leg Netball Scotland v England, Glasgov Skiing Alpine World Championships (to 25), Sierra Nevada, Spain
- 12 Bowls World Singles and Pairs Indoor Pairs Indoor Championships (to 25), Guild Hall, Preston **Tennis** Men's tournaments Dubai, Marseilles, San Jose; women's tournament. Paris (10 18)
- 14 Football Coca-Cola Cup. semi-final, first leg Cricket World Cup, England v New Zealand Ahmedahad, India
- 15 Cricket World Cup, South Africa v UAE. Rawalpindi, Pakistan Golf Australian Masters. Huntingdale, Victoria: South African PGA Championskip.
- Johannesburg (to 18) 16 Cricket World Cup. West Indies v Zimbabwe. Hyderabad, India **viruming** European Short-course and Sprint Championships, France
- 17 Football FA Cup, fifth round Rugby Union Five Nations' Championship, France v Ireland, Paris: Wales v Scotland, Cardiff Criciost World Cup. New Zealand v Netherlands. Baroda, India: Sri Lanka v Australia, Colombo, Sri Lanka **Badminton** Thomas and Uber Cup preliminaries (to 34). Prague and Auckland Speed skating World Sprint Championships (to 18), Heerenveen.
- Cricket World Cup.
  England v UAE. Peshawar Pakistan: India v Kenya, Cuttack, India Rugby Union Scotland v. Murraylicki

Netherlands

- er International Open (to 24). Bournemouth
- Tennis men's tournaments. Antwerp. Memphis; women's tournaments Essen, Oklahoma (to 25)
- 20 Cricket World Cup. South Africa v New Zealand. Faisalabad, Pakistan
- Football Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final, second leg Cricket World Cup, India v West Indies, Gwalior, India; Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe. Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 22 Cricket World Cup. England v Netherlands. Peshawar, Pakistan
- 23 Cricket World Cup.
  Australia v Kenya Australia v Kenya, Vishakhapatnam, India
- 24 Rugby Union Paka Cup, quarter-finals Rugby Union Pilkington Cricket World Cup. Pakistan v UAE, Guiranwala, Pakistar Athietics Great Britain v France, Glasgow Horse racing Racing Post Chase, Kempton; Greenalls Gold Cup, Havdock Netbail England v Northern Ireland, Portsmouth
- 25 Cricket World Cup, South Africa v England, Rawalpindi, Pakistan; West Indies v Sri Lanka. Colombo, Sri Lanka Football Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final, second leg
- 26 Cricket World Cup. Pakistan v Netherlands. Lahore: Zimbabwe v Kenya, Patna, India unis Men's tournar Milan. Philadelphia; women's tournaments Delray Beach, Florida and Linz. Austria (to 3 March) Snooker European Open (to 3 March), Malta
- 27 Cricket World Cup. India v Australia, Bombay, India; New Zealand v UAE, Faisələbəd, Pakistan
- 29 Cricket World Cup, South Africa v Pakistan, Karachi: Africa v Pakistan, Karachi; West Indies v Kenya. Pune, India Golf Turespaña Open (to 3 March I. Spain



# march

kardes Glympic gold in Atlanta

- Cricket World Cup. Australia v Zimbabwe. Nagpur, India: Netherlands UAE Lahore Pakistan Bowls Women's Indoor National Championships (to 8), Bannister Park, Skiing Alpine World Cup (to 2), women's downhill, giant slalom (venue tha)
- Rughy Union Five Nations Championship, Ireland v Wales, Dublin; Scotland v England, Murravfield Football FA Trophy, third Cricket World Cup, India Sri Lanka, Delhi Siding Alpine World Cup (to 3), men's downhill and
- Japan Cricket World Cup. England v Pakistan, Karachi. Pakistan Baskethall National men's and women's Cup Finals. Sheffield Arena **Powerlifting** Women's national championships Manchester

super-giant. Happo One,

- Cricket World Cup, West Indies v Australia, Jaipur, **Bowls** Men's Indoor British Isles Championships (to 5), Auckinlech Skiling Alpine World Cup finals (to 10), men and women (venue tba) **leanis** Men's tournar (to 10) Rotterdam, Scottsdale, Arizona and Mexico; women's tournament (to 17), Indian Wells. California
- Cricket World Cup, South Africa y Netherlands, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- Football European club competitions, quarterfinals, first leg Boxing ABA Champion Cricket World Cup, India Zimbabwe, Kanpur, India; Pakistan v New Żealand. Lahore, Pakistan; Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy. Sri Lanka Bowls Men's Indoor British Isles Home International Series (to 8). Auckinlech

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- Golf Moroccan Open (to 10), Agadir
- Athletics European Indoor Championships (to 10). Stockholm cer Thailand Open (to 16), Bangkok
  - stball FA Cup, quarterfinals Criciost World Cup. quarter-finals Regby Union County Championship, semi-finals Horse racing Imperial Cup. Sandown **Hockey** Ireland v England,
  - women's match. Dublin 10 Motor racing Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne **Netball** Republic of Ireland v England, Dublin
  - **Badminton** All England 11 Bedirative on Lagorithm (to 16). Birmineham lennis Men's tournaments Indian Wells, California and Copenhagen (to 17) 12 Basketball Men's European Cup Final,
  - Vitoria, Spain; Women's European Cup Final se racing Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham 13 Cricket World Cup semi-final, Calcutta, India Horse racing Queen
  - Mother Champions Chase Cheltenham 14 Horse racing Cheltenham Gold Cup Gricket World Cup semifinal, Chandigarh Golf Dubai Desert Classic
  - 15 Figure Skating World Championships (to 17), Hamar. Norway Skiling World Cup Cross Country Final (to 17), Oslo Ski jumping World Cup Final (to 17), Oslo
  - 16 Rugby Union Five Nations' Championship, England v Ireland, Twickenham: Wales v France, Arms Park Horse racing Cheltenham Gold Cup nis National Table tee Championships (to 17). Feecing British Sabre Championships, London
  - Rowing Women's Head of the River Race, London Cricket World Cup final. Lahore
  - D Bowls World Championships (to 31), Adelaide; Women's Indoor British Isles Championships I Janelli Tennis Men's tournament. St Petersburg (to 24)
  - 20 Football Coca-Cola Cup Final, Wembley
  - 21 Tennis Lipton Championships (to 31), Key Biscayne, Florida. Econostrianism National Show Jumping Championships (to 24). Stoneleigh, Golf Portugal Open (to 24) Snooker Final qualifying for
  - Embassy World Championship (to 22), Telford 23 Athletics 24th IAAF
    World Cross Country Championships, Cape Town Rugby Union Pilkington Cup. semi-finals Football FA Umbro Trophy, fourth round

Horse racing Lincoln

- Handicap, Doncaster **Nethal** England v Wales. Bedford 24 Football European club competitions, quarterfinals, second leg **Hockey** England v India, men's match: England v France, women's match, at
- National Hockey Stadium. Milton Keynes (opening day 25 Tennis Men's tournament, Casablanca (to 31)
- 26 Snooker Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (to 31). Goffs, Co Kildare Shooting European Air Gun Championship (to 1
- 27 Squash British Open (to 7 April). Cardiff 26 Golf Dinah Shore women's tournament. Rancho Mirago, California:

April), Budapest

Madeira Island Open (to 31) 29 Badanhiton English National Championships (to 31) Swimming European Diving

Cup (to 31), Aachen,

- Germany 30 Football FA Cup semi-finals Horse racing Grand National, Aintree Athletics LAU 100km World Challenge, Athens Rowing Men's Head of the River Race, London Rughy Union Hong Kong Sevens (to 31)
- 31 Football FA Cup. semi-finals Motor racing Brazilian Grand Prix. Interlagos Boxing 31st European Championships (to 7 April). Veile. Denmark

# april

- Tonnis Women's tournament, Hilton Head Island (to 8)
- Football European club first leg
- Trinité. France
- Motor racing Argentinian Grand Prix, Buenos Aires
- Termis Termis Men's tourna ments, New Delhi, Estoril, and Hong Kong; women's nts, Amelia Island Florida and Jakarta (to 14) Weightlifting European Championships (to 4 May), iger, Norway Salling UK Youth Championships (to 12), Warsash
- Golf US Masters (to 14),
- Salling 505 World
- **7** Football FA Trophy, semifinal, first leg
  Attaletics IAAF World Road Relay Championship (to 14). Copenhagen Bowls Men's English National Indoor Championlag Scullers Head of the River race, London Judo British Open Championships, National
- **Badminton** European 14 Championships (to 21).
- Championships (to 21), San Juan, Puerto Rico Teranis Men's tournament Tokyo, Barcelona and Bermuda; women's tournament (to 24), Tokyo
- second leg Cup final (to 21), Geneva
- 18 Golf Cannes Open (to 21) Horse racing Craven
- 19 Horse racing Fred Darling Stakes, Newmarket
- finals, second leg Rugby Union County Chan pionship final, Twickenham Snooter Embassy World Championship (to 6 May). Sheffield Bowls EBF Indoor Finals. Lincoln
  - Salling French Olympic Week (10 27), Hyères, France Horse racing Greenham Stakes, Newhury Scottish Grand National, Ayr
- Athletics London Marathon
- women's Fed Cup matches
- 27 Rugby League Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. Wembley Horse racing Whithread
- 28 Motor racing European Grand Prix, Nürburgring, **Athletics** Rotterdam
- 29 Tennis Men's tournaments (to 5 May). Atlanta, Munich

- first leg
- Equestrianism Badminton Three-day Event (to 4) Golf Italian Open, Milan; Women's Weish Open (to 5). Chepstow Squash European Team Championships (105), Zoetermeer, Netherlands
- Tennis Great Britain v Euro-African Zone, first round, Newcastle

Horse racing 2,000

guineas, Newmarket ି ଅଳେ \varTheta 🗨

# The Year's Main Events

- er British Open (to 8) CRICKET
- Sailing Spi Ouest (to 8), La
- Rowling Boat Race, London
- Salling Laser World Championships (to 16), South Africa
- Augusta, Georgia
- Championship (to 19), Townsville, Australia
- ship (to 21), Melton Mowbray
- Indoor Arena Birmingham
- Herning, Denmark 15 Attrictics Boston Marathon Gymnastics World
- 16 Horse racing Nell Gwynn Stakes, Newmarket
- Football European Competitions, semi-finals, Horse racing European Free Handicap, Newmarket Equestrianism Volvo World
- 20 Football FA Trophy, semi-finals, second len
- 22 Tennis Men's tournaments (to 28), Monte Carlo, Seoul;
- 24 Footbatt England v Croatia, Wembley 25 Gotf Turespaña Masters (to 28) nds European
- Championships (to 15), Bratislava, Slovakia
- Gold Cup Football Women's FA Cup
- marathon

### and Prague may

- Football Uefa Cup final,
- Slovenia, Davis Cup (to 5),

- - ATHLETICS Stockholm, 8-10 March
  - South Africa v Engla Fifth Test England v India First Test Second Test Third Test
  - England v Pakis First Test Second Test Headingley, 8-12 Aug Third Test son & He

NatWest Trophy final

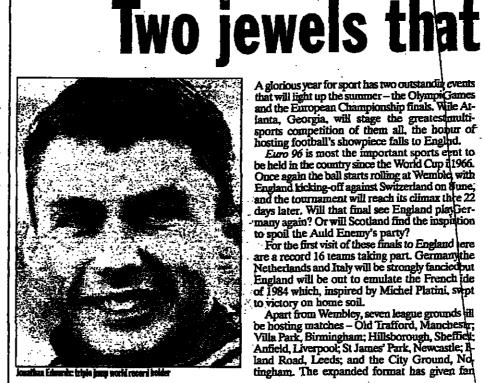
Cape Town, 2-6 Jan Edgbaston, 6-10 Jun Lord's 20-24 Jun Trent Bridge, 4-9 Jul Lord's, 25-29 July

The Oval. 22-26 Aug

Lord's, 13 July

- CYCLING 21 April Tour de France FOOTBALL. Coca-Cola Cup final Uefa Cup final European Coo-Wi FA Cop fical Scottish Cup fin
  - 24 March 1 and 15 May European Cup flua BOLF
- 11-14 April Oakland Hill 13-16 June US Open Royal Lytham & St Anne, 18-21 July a. 8-11 Aug US POA Cha HORSE RACING 14 March 30 March Lord's, 7 Sept

# Grand Nation 8 June



A glorious year for sport has two outstandin events that will light up the summer – the Olympi-Games and the European Championship finals. Wile Atlanta, Georgia, will stage the greatestmulti-sports competition of them all, the boom of hosting football's showpiece falls to Englid.

Euro 96 is most the important sports eart to he held in the country since the World Cup il 1966. Once again the ball starts rolling at Wemble, with

England kicking-off against Switzerland on Sune,

and the tournament will reach its climax thee 22

days later. Will that final see England playGer-many again? Or will Scotland find the inspirition to spoil the Auld Enemy's party?
For the first visit of these finals to England ere are a record 16 teams taking part. Germanythe Netherlands and Italy will be strongly fancied but England will be out to emulate the French ide of 1984 which, inspired by Michel Platini, swept

to victory on home soil. Apart from Wembley, seven league grounds ill be hosting matches - Old Trafford, Manchestr, Villa Park, Birmingham; Hillsborough, Sheffiel; Anfield, Liverpool; St James' Park, Newcastle; Illand Road, Leeds; and the City Ground, No tingham. The expanded format has given far

Mon 29 July Tue 30 July Wed 31 July Wed 31 July Thu 1 August Sat 3 August Sat 3 August Sun 4 August Wountell Discharge Wountell Discharge Sat 3 August Soun 4 August Soun 5 August Soun 6 August Soun 6 August Soun 7 August Soun 7 August Soun 8 August Soun 9 August Soun	Mon 22 July     ○	Fri 19 July
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Rugby Union Pilkington

Championship finals (to 5),

Championships, London

Windsurfing Championship

Cup Final, Twickenham

**Basicathall** Buchweiser

Fencing British Foil

Salling National

(to 6). Weymouth

Horse racing 1,000

guineas, Newmarket

Grand Prix. Imola

Open, Rome; men's

Group A Group B England Spain Switzerland 5 4 1 Bulgaria Scotland, Romania Sat 8 June Sun 9 June Mon 10 June Thurs 13 June Frid 14 June

Set 15 June

- .France England v Switzerland : Wembley Spain v Bulgaria Germana v Casch Rep. Dermark v Portugal
  - Netherlands y Scotlenti Romania v Franca Switz v Netherlands Bulgaria v Romania England v Scotland France v Spain.
- **Equestrianism** Royal Windsor Horse Show (to 26), Berkshire Horse racing Chester Cup Squash World Cup (to 12). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Golf Peugeot Open, Spain; LPGA Championships,

Wilmington, Delaware,

European Championship

ics Men's

Motor racing San Marine (to 12), Copenhagen Salfing Mumm 36 Circuit Athletics LAAF Grand Prix (to 12), Nieuwpoort, meeting, São Paulo, Brazil Belgium mais Women's Italian 10 Soff Women's Costa Azul Open (to 12), Lisbon

(to 12)

- tournament (to 12), Hamburg Football FA Cup final Horse racing Chester Vase Golf England v France, Summodale, Berkshire Football European Cup-Rugby Union Middlesex winners' Cup final, Brussek Sevens, Twickenham
- **Horse racing** Derby mai. Triatision British Modern Triathion Championships (to 12), Milton Keynes

SCHEDULE

Street 0

Denmark

Portugal

Turkey

Croatia

Elland Road

Old Trafford

i Esborough

St James' Park

City Ground -

St James Park

Stand Road 2 18:00

Villa Park

City Ground

Antield -

Villa Park

15.00

14:30

·17:00

19:30

19:30

**小麦类** 

Germany

Czech Rep.

- 12 Football Endsleigh League play-offs, semi-finals, first leg, FA Vase final, Wembley **citesy** H.A Trophy final and HA Cup final, Milton Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Tokyo Salling Lynnington Cup (to 18)
- 13 Founds Men's Italian Open, Rome; women's tournaments, Berlin (to 19)
- Tomaks British Clay Court Championships (to 19), Cardiff Horse racing Musidora Stakes, York

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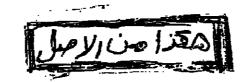
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# calendar of world sport for 1996

MOTOR RACING Wales v Scotland -Cardiff, 17 Feb Silverstone, 14 July France v keland Paris. 17 Feb 14 June Scotland v England RAC Rally : Chester, 24-27 Nov Ireland v Wales Murrayfield, 2 March Dublin, 2 March England v Ireland kenham, 16 March University Boat Race 6 April Wales v France Cardiff, 16 March RUGBY LEAGUE Pilidogton Cup fir Twickenham, 4 May Huddersfield, 13 Jan -Rogal Tropby final Cardiff, 4 May Wembley 27 April SNOCKER RUGBY UNION

Paris, 20 Jan French Open

Twickenham, 3 Feb Winnbledon

Murrayfield, 3 Feb US Open

World Championship Sheffield, 20 April-6 May Dublin, 20 Jan Amstralian Open Melbourne, 15-28 Jan

Parls, 27 May-9 June

New York, 26 Aug-8 Sept.

. 24 Jun-7 July

29 European Championships (to 2 June), Osio

(to 9 June) Paris

Football Endsleigh League Second Division play-off final, Wembley Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

meeting, Eugene, Oregon

Football Endsleigh League

First Division play-off final,

Wembley **Tennis** Prench Open

Show jamping Hickstead Nationa Cup (to 2 June) Golf US Women's Open, South Pines, North Carolina; TPC of Europe, Hamburg (to 2 June)

# june

Motor racing Spanish Grand Prix, Barcelona

Golf English Open Seniors Championships (to 7), West Lanes and Ormskirk hietics [AAF Grand Prix meeting, Rome

Criciost England v India, First Test (to 10), Edgbaston Golf English Open (to 9), Forest of Arden isan Bramham Three-day Event (to 9)

Horse racing The Oaks, hietics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Moscow Golf Women's Danish Open (to 9), Vejle, Denmark

Horse racing The Derby and Coronation Cup, Epsom event (to 9), Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham Salling 470 European Championships (to 16)

Tennis Stella Artois Grass Court Championships, Queen's Club, London; Women's DFS Classic (to 16), Edgbaston

13 Goff US Open, Birmingham, Alabama; Jersey Open, La Moye; women's Swiss Open, Maison Blanche, Geneva (to 16) Hockey Four Nations Pre-Olympic tournaments (to 16), Milton Keynes

**Attrictics** National Champion-ships (to 16), Motor racing Le Mans 24hour race (to 15)

16 Salling Singlehanded Trans-atlantic race starts, Plymouth Motor racing Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal

Insurance Championships, Pastbourne: Men's Nottingham Open (to 22) Championships (to 28),

10 Horse racing Royal Ascot (to 21)

19 Golf Evian Masters (to 22), Royal Evian, France

20 Cricket England v India, Second Test (to 24), Lord's **Golf BMW International** Open (to 23), Manich Cycling European Road race Championships, Isle of Man

Golf Curtis Cap (to 22), Killarney tics World Championships (to 23), Budapest

22 Rowing Henley Women's Regatta (to 23) Salling Etchells World Championship (to 28), Cower Americae football World Championships (to 2 July),

24 Tennis Wimbledon (to 7 July)
Cricket Women's First Test, England v New Zealand (to 27), Scarborough

25 Equestrianism German Nations Cup Show (to 30), Aachen

26 Golf Women's British Open Amateur Championship (to 30), Royal Porthcawl Shooting European Clay Target Championships (to 3 July), Tallinn, Estonia Sailing Kiel Week (to 30)

27 Golf French Open, Paris; Open, Vienna (to 30)

28 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Paris

29 Cycling Tour de France (to 21 July), starts s'Hertogenbosch. Selling Round the Island

Race, Cowes

30 Motor racing French Grand Prix Mann Grand Prix, Magny-Cours Athletics Gates Grand Prix

july

**Bowls** British Isle international series, Ireland

> **Rowing** Healey Royal Regatta and World Cup (to 7) Criciost Women's second

International, Sheffield Motor racing Hungarian

15 Got Women's British Open, Wobum; Czech Open,

Marianske Lazne (to 18)

Derby meeting (to 18).

Hickstead, Sussex

16 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Cologne

7 Football FA Carling

Skegness

Premiership and Endsleigh

League seasons begin Bowls EBF and EWBF

Championships (to 24),

Horse racing Geoffrey

Freer Stakes, Newbury Equestrianism Scottish

Championship Horse Trials

(to 18), Lauder, Berwicks

1 O Bowls EBA National Cham-

pionships (to 30), Worthing

International Classic

19 Athletics Great Britain v United States, Gateshead

21 Horse racing Ebor Handican York

**Salling** The Teacher's

Round Britain Challenge

(to 14 or 15 Sept), Cowes

Termis Men's tournament.

ament, San Diego (to 25)

Toronto: women's tourn-

Handicap, York Water skiling European

Championships (to 25),

Vallenback, Denmark

Golf German Open.

(ts at)

Stuttgart; women's Trygg

Hansa Open, Stockholm

Three-day Event (inc Junior

European Championships)

(to 25), Perthshire

23 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Brussels

competition, Worthing

me Girec ains to contate Ciris

ardman's Olympic cycling gold

Cycling European

ships (to 25), Italy

25 Athletics McDonald's Games, Crystal Palace

Francorchamos

26 Teamis US Open

Motor racing Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-

European Under-21

28 Weightlifting European Championships (to 31),

Burgas, Bulgaria

**29 Cricket** England v Pakistan, first one-day

Nations Cup (to 31), Cardiff

Championships (to 8 Sept), Flushing Meadow,

international, Old Trafford

Golf European Masters. Crans-sur-Sierre.

Compaq Open, Orebro,

Switzerland; women's

Sweden (to 1 Sept)

30 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Berlin

31 Cricket England v Pakistan, second one-day

Telfes, Anstria

september

Pakistan, third one-day

Golf British Masters (to 8),

match, Trent Bridge

Collingtree Park,

Stamford Lines

final Lord's

three-day event (to 8),

Cricket Nat West Tropby

Tennels Men's day court

Athletics IAAF Grand Prix

**Cricket** England v

Prix. London

international, Edghaston

strianism British Horse Trials Championship

(to 1 Sept), Gatcombe Park

Athletics World Mountain

Running Trophy (to 1 Sept),

nedway British Grand

24 Bowls Champion of Champions singles

unism Blair Castle

Cycling Leeds

Equestrianism Silk Cut

Cricios England v India. Third Test (to 9), Trent Bridge 12 Tennis Men's tournamen Indianapolis, women's Golf Murphy's Irish Open, Co Wicklow, women's Hennessy Cup, Cologne, Germany (to 7)

**Attriotics** LAAF Grand Prix meeting, Oslo

odern Pentablen British Championships (to 7), Milton Keynes Camposing National Flatwater Championships Regatta (to 7), Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham **Horse racing Eclipse** Stakes, Sandown breay World Cup (to 7), Poole spollning English National Championships (to 7), Kettering

Econoctrianism Royal International Horse Show (to 14), Hickstead

**Athletics IAAF Grand** Prix meeting, Stockholm
Tennis Men's tournaments (to 14), Gstaad, Bastad and Newport, Rhode Island: Women's Fed Cup matches

10 Golf Scottish Open (to 13), Carnoustie **Metics** IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Nice

11 Swimming National Championship (to 14), Leeds International Horse Show (to 14), Hickstead, Sussex Horse racing July Cop.

Newmarket

12 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix, KP Games, Crystal Tennés Great Britain v Ghana or Malta, Davis Cup (to 14), Euro-African Zone, second round or play-off Criciost Women's Third Test, England v New Zealand (to 15), Guildford

13 Cricket Benson & Hedges Cup Final, Lord's Shooting NRA Imperial Meeting (to 27), Bisley Speedway World Individual Championship (to 14), Leicester

Motor racing British 14 Grand Prix, Silverstone **Metics** European Mountain Running Trophy. Llanberis, Wales

Tennis Men's tournaments 15 Termis Men's toutleans, Washington; women's tournaments (to Salling Cork Week (to 19)

10 Golf Open Championship (to 21), Royal Lytham &

10 Rowing National championships (to 21), Holme Pieurepont, Nottingham

22 Salling Commodores' Cup (to 1 Aug.), Cowes unis Men's tournament (to 28), Kitzbühel, Austria.

25 Cricket England v Pakistan, First Test (10 29), Lord's Open (to 28), Dublin

27 Horse racing King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot

29 Goff English Amateur Championship (to 3 Aug), Notts Hollinwell **unia M**en's tournameni (to 4 Aug), Amsterdam.

30 Horse racing Giorious Goodwood (to 3 Aug)

# august

**Golf** Scandinavian Masters Gothenburg, women's du Maurier Classic. Edmonton, Alberta (to 4)

Bowls Women's World Championships (to 24), Learningtou Spa Championships, B Group (to 11), Hull Salling Cowes Week (to 10)

Tennis Men's tournaments, women's tournament. Montreal (to 11)

Rowling World Champion ships (to 11), Strathclyde Horse Show (to 11)

> Second Test (to 12), GOH US PGA Championship, Valhalla, Louisville; Hohe Brücke Open, Litschau, Austria;

event (to 15), Bournemouth Motor racing Italian Land and sand yachting Grand Prix, Monza Fylde International (to 11), St Atmes

Football Littlewoods FA Old Trafford Charity Shield, Wembley

Bournemouth, Bucharest, Bogota; women's tournaments, Hong Kong, Prague, Nagoya (to 15)

tournament Manhatten Bolf Men's and women's Beach, California (to 18) Home internationals, Moray and Longniddry, Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Zurich Scotland, (to 13)

12 Cycling National Track Championships (part 2, to 15), Manchester Golf Lancone Trophy (to 15). St Nom La Brêteche, Paris

14 Horse racing St Leger, Doncaster Cycling World Mountain Bike Championship (10 22), Cairos, Australia Disabled sport National Athletics Championships

(to 15), Nottingham 16 tournament (to 22), Tokyo

19 Soff Loch Lomend World Invitational (to 22) Three-day Event (to 22), Woodstock, Oxon

20 Golf Solheim Cup (to 22), Europe v United States, Chepstow

Horse racing Ayr Gold Cup; Mill Reef Stakes, Selling Grand Mistral round the world race begins,

Marseilles 22 Motor racing Portuguese Grand Prix, Estoril

23 Teanis Men's tourname (to 29), Basle, Palermo, nis Men's tournaments Knala Lumpur

22 Cricket England v Pakistan, Third Test (to 26), Oval 25 Athletics IAAF/Mobil Grand Prix, Milan san Horse of the Year Show (to 29), Wembley

26 Golf European Open, Dublin; women's Maredo Open (to 29), Hamburg

International dressage show (to 29), Addingon, Bucks

26 Tennis Women's Fed Cup finals (to 29) Horse racing Queen

Elizabeth II Stakes, Ascot 29 Salling BT Global Challenge starts, Southampton Horse racing Diadem

Athletics Berlin marathon

october

Horse racing Cheveley Park Stakes, Newmarket

Equestrianism Horse of the Year Show (to 6), Wembley **Cycling** World Road Race Championships (to 6), Switzerland

Golf German Masters: women's Three Nations Cup (to 6), Henri-Chapelle, Horse racing Middle Park Stakes, Newmarket

Horse racing

Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket

Rugby League Australia v Great Britain, first international, Brisbane Athletics IAAF World Halfmarathon Championships,

Squash Women's World Championships (to 19), Kuala Lumpur Terrais Men's tournaments, Vienna, Tokyo; women's

Sailing National Match Racing finals (to 13), Weymouth

10 Goff Alfred Dunhill Cup. St Andrews, women's Italian Open di Sicilia, Il Picciolo.

Sicily (to 13)

12 Tennis Autogiass Classic (to 23), Brighton

13 Ringby League Australia v Great Britain, second international, Sydney

4 Tennis Men's tournaments Toulouse, Ostrava and Tel

Zurich (to 20) 17 Golf Toyota World March Wentworth; women's World

Championship, Cheju, South Korea: women's French Open (so 20) Horse racing Challenge Stakes, Newmarket

10 Horse racing Dewhurst Stakes, Newmarket

19 Horse racing Cesarewitch and Champion Stakes, Newmarket Jado European Team Championships (to 20), St Petersburg

20 Rugby League Australia Great Britain, third international match. Melbourne

21 Tennis Men's tournaments, Stuttgart, Santiago; women's Luxembourg (to 26)

Golf Volvo Masters, Valderrama, Spain; Hyatt La Manga, Spain (to 27) Horse racing Horris Hill Stakes, Newbury

26 Windsarfing Inland National Championships (to 27), Graffham Water Horse racing Racing Post Trophy, Doncaster

Rugby League New Zealand v Great Britain, First Test, Auckland, NZ

**10 Tennis** Men's tournaments. **LO** Paris, Montevideo; women's tournaments, Chicago, Moscow (to 17)

**70 Tennis** National Championships (10 3 Nov), Telford

Golf World Open Championship (to 3 Nov). The Legends at Chateau

november

Synchronised swimming National Championships (to 4 Nov)
Horse racing Charlie Hall Chase, Wetherby

Rugby League New Zealand v Great Britain. Second Test, Palmerston. New Zealand Athletics New York marathon

**Tennis** Men's tournaments, Stockholm, Moscow, Buenos Aires; women's tournaments, Oakland, Hong Kong (to 10)

Horse racing November Handicap, Doncaster

innais Women's tournament, Philadelphia (to 10)

Tennis ATP Tour Doubles Championships (to 17) **Weightlifting** World Powerlifting Championships (to 17), Solden, Austria

Snooker UK Championships (to 1 Dec), Guild Hall.

16 Rowing Thames World Sculling Challenge, London Horse racing Mackeson Gold Cup, Cheltenham

17 Sailing BT Global Challenge, second leg starts, Rio de Janeiro

18 Touris Corel WTA Tour Championship (to 24).

New York

19 Tennis ATP Tour Championships (to 24). Hanover, Germany **91** Golf World Cup of Golf

(to 24), Cape Town, South Africa 23 Modern Biathion British Championships (to 24).

Macclesfield Horse racing First National Gold Cup, Ascot

**24 Rallying** Rac Rally (to 27), Chester

29 Tennis Davis Cup finals (10 1 Dec)

30 Horse racing Hennessy Gold Cup. Newbury

december Tennis Grand Slam Cup

(to 8), Munich ndball Women's European Championship

(to 15), Denmark Fives National Singles Championships (to 8 Dec).

Manchester Athletics Fukuoka marathon, Japan; Honolulu

12 Swimming National Winter Championships

(to 15), Sheffield 14 Horse racing Tripleprint Gold Cup, Cheltenham

15 Athletics European Cross Country Championships. Charleroi, Belgium

**© Equestrianism** Olympia

19 Golf World Championship (to 22), Tryall, Jamaica

21 Horse racing Betterware Cup. Ascol

26 Horse racing King George VI Chase, Kempton Salling Sydney to Hobart

27 Horse racing Welsh National, Chepstow: Christmas Hurdle. Kempton

race starts

28 Darts British Open (to 29), Earls Court. London

**Compiled by Mark Burton** 



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The state of the s

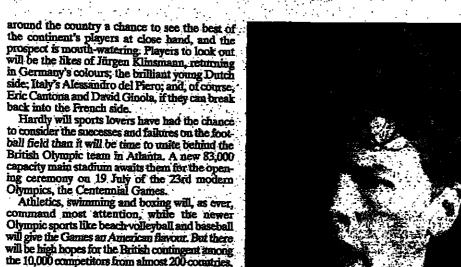
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England v Wales

Scotland v France



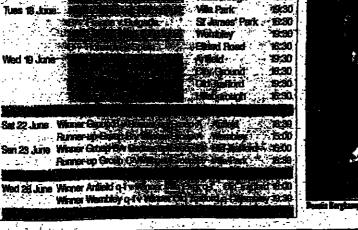
Olympic sports like beach volleyball and baseball will give the Games an American flavour. But there will be high hopes for the British contingent among the 10,000 competitors from almost 200 countries, with athletes like Jonathan Edwards, Colin Jackson, Sally Gunnell and, perhaps, Linford Christie, the sculler Stephen Redgrave, going for a fourth gold in four Games, and the pursuit cyclist.

Graeme Obree leading British medal challenge. Atlanta, 19 July -4 Aug 9 . . . • e Ta 3 0 

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England, 8-30 June





15 Horse racing Dante Stakes, York Uefa Cup final, League play-offs, serui-finals, second leg

16 Goff Beuson and Hedges International Open (to 19). The Oxfordshire, Thame manties Women's European Championship (to 19), Birmingham Judo European Champion

thips (to 19), The Hagne Solf Brabazon Trophy. English Amateur Str Play Championship (to 19). Uber Cap finals (to 26).

Hong Kong 10 Football Scottish FA Cop-final, Hampdon Park Athletics LAAF Grand Prix meeting, Atlanta

19 Motor racing Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo Football EA Trophy Final, Hockey AEWHA Can Final, Milton Keynes eties British 100km

Championships, Nottinghan 20 St Politen, Austria; women's normament (to 26),

21 Horse racing Lockings
Stakes, Newbury Salling Eurolymp (to 26), Mederablik, Netherlands 22 Footbell European Champions' Cop Final, Rome

rubles Cup (to 25), Edinburgh 23 Cricket England v India. eniem Windsor Three-day Event (to 26)

Shooting Pistol 96, Bisley Salling Rover Scottish (to 28), Tarbert, Loch Pyne,

A. C. T.

**mestriani**em British Nations Cup Show, Hickstead Susser **Cycling** National Track Champiouships (to 27), Manchester Hockey European Club Championship (to 27)
Salling Bristol Pestival of

26 Criciot England v India, one-day international, Old

24 Soft Volvo PGA Champion-ship (to 27), Wentworth; nnen's Dutch Open (to 26) the Sea (to 27)

25 Criciest England v India, one-day international, Headingley Footboll Endsleigh League Third Division play-off final, Wembley

Zealand (to 6), Worcester

Horse racing Haydock Sprint Cup

European WPGA Championship (to 11) (venue iba) 10 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix meeting, Monte Carlo

Rugby League Stones Bitter Premiership final,

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galanti Santa Andrews

# 1945: The War was over. It was a time of hope, homecomings and unforgettable celebration

av I," wrote Sir Stafford Cripps to Winston Churchill in December 1945, "as an old colleague still imbued with gratitude for all you did for us during the War, send you and Clementine my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a good New Year."

They were sentiments the nation doubtless shared - the London Evening Standard named him its Man of the Year but gratitude had not been sufficient to keep Churchill in office. Britain's first majority Labour government was elected on a landslide vote in July 1945. And Cripps himself. once Churchill's ambassador to Moscow and Minister of Aircraft Production, was now President of the Board of Trade in Clement Attlee's cabinet.

The War was over, but the memory lingered on. The Nuremberg trials were under way, servicemen and women were still scattered all over the world - many of them increasingly frustrated at the slow pace of demobilisation - and gales were setting mines adrift in the Channel.

Britain was virtually bankrupt - the War had cost almost a quarter of the country's entire pre-war wealth - and a worldwide food crisis loomed, after a disastrous wheat crop in Europe and North Africa and a rice crop in Asia that was 15 per cent below normal. Just before Christmas, Parliament voted to accept a £1.1bn loan from the United States.

Churchill, meanwhile, spent Christmas in London, holding a family party at Hyde Park Gate on 22 December, and going to the theatre on Boxing Day to see Henry IV: Part Two. in which Laurence Olivier played Mr Justice Shallow after playing Hotspur that afternoon in Part One).

Elsewhere that Christmas. Kitty and The Stork Club opened in London cinemas, and The Road to Utopia with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby was at the Carlton Haymarket. Charlton were top of the Football League (South): Everton were top of the Northern table. Humphrey Bogart celebrated his 45th birthday on Christmas Day, and the writer Jeffrey Bernard, then a 13-year-old pupil of Fonthill School, East Grinstead, took his first drink and was groped by Santa Claus in Harrods' Christmas grotto - though not necessarily in that order.

### Norman Lewis, author of in the Intelligence Corps.

Returning to England just before Christmas 1945 after an absence of three years, I was aware of a slump in the national spirits. I had come straight from Austria in the aftermath of defeat, yet bere, after a longdelayed victory, the mood was hardly less drab. Food shortages were worse than in wartime. With power cuts, ance, and hope was reborn. freezing houses and the citizens of London groping their way by torchlight through unlit streets, celebrations were understandably muted.

A category of sharp-eyed young men, for whom the name spiv had been coined, nevertheless exuded unquenchable good cheer. They "knew their way around and were instantly available as guides to such remnants of pleasure as were gloomy facades of the post-war

Rationing remained strict and the Government had sensibly imposed a maximum price to be charged for the supposedly austere meals restaurants were permitted to serve. Whether you dined at the Savoy or the humblest of eating houses, the limit was five shillings. As ever, there was huge scope for manoeuvre here, so that many of those unable to take their meals at home did quite well, although the majority fared badly.

On Boxing night an amiable oung spiv attached himself and led me to a restaurant in Romitly Street. Here, peering through a curtain dividing the



# most remarkable Christmas

privileged few from the rest. I before the War and had somewas busying himself with five shillings' worth of pheasant. For those of us on the wrong side of the barrier, a well-known Soho speciality was bleached horsemeat disguised as escalope de veau. It was a masterpiece of culinary deception, accompanied by several glasses of excellent red Algerian. Facing the night again an hour later, a few stars had made a furtive appear-

Daphne Park (now Baroness Park of Monmouth), officer in

I was serving in Germany in the mixed Anglo-American-French unit. I can remember very clearly that a friend of mine whom I met there, an RAF officer who had been in the hands of the Jananese, had been in Czechoslovakia still to be found behind the not long before the War and had made a lot of friends there.

On Christmas night he invited me to drive with him into the Black Forest - it was a very snowy night - and after a while we came to a farm of sorts in the middle of the forest. I remember there was a great big barn, and as we drew near I could hear music. Inside were some circus riders with horses, dancing to music - it was an amazing scene. It turned out that they were either circus people or gypsics, and that they had managed to hide these trained horses first from the Germans and then from the requisition all good horses.

spied one of the guardians of the how got in touch with them. nation's destiny - instantly and they had asked him to recognisable from his many come along on Christmas night. We drank punch, and he brought some cigarettes. which were like currency in those days, and I had some chocolates. I remember there were some children there, too. It was a wonderful experience because at that time, only six months after the end of the War, we were still under orders not to fraternise, and a lot of young Nazis in Bavaria were still attacking our troops and laving ambushes on the autobahns. So. to find this atmosphere of friendship and to have had this amazing coming together of people is something I'll always remember.

### Bill Leadbeater, leading hand in the Royal Navy.

I was on a ship called the HMS Prince Albert. We were out in the Far East and we were transporting a group of Dutch exprisoners of war who had been held by the Japanese. They were being taken from Padang in Western Sumatra round to the capital, Madana: they were mainly women and children because the Japanese had separated them from the men.

We were going to have a Christmas dinner on board and the cook had purchased a load of chickens from the Naafi: each member of the crew was going to have half a chicken as his Christmas dinner, and naturally we were all looking forward to this. However, in view American army, who wanted to of all these refugees on board. a movement grew among the Robbie knew these people crew that it would seem a little



down to chicken while the refugees were given normal Navy rations. We hadn't any extra food on board, so we voted to let them have it; and we took our mess tables up to the upper deck - we were round about the Equator - and served

them our Christmas dinner. They were absolutely overwhelmed by this generosity because this was the first time they'd had freedom, although the War had ended in August, and this was their first meeting with white people in over four vears. It was only a relatively short voyage, but it was amaz-

ing what friendships were struck up between the children and the crew. It was one of the best things I ever did in the Navy.

### Leslie Phillips, stage and film actor.

I came out of the Army just

before the end of the War. I was invalided out - a boy when it started and an officer when it ended. I went back to the theatre because I couldn't think of anything else to do. I have a strong recollection of

that first Christmas after the War and the period between Christmas and New Year. There was mad, lunatic behaviour in Piccadilly Circus. Everyone went bonkers. I had never seen so many people go bonkers. I was with a pal who had served in submarines and been invalided out. The two of us met

up and went equally bonkers. We'd all been in the War, even those who weren't in the services - people had lost fam-ilies, houses, limbs - and there was delight that there was no more killing. Everyone was so open and friendly. You just went into places - restaurants, hotels, people's rooms. A whole solid mass of hysterical people staring at Eros.

### Martha Gellhorn, war correspondent for New York-based Collier's Weekly.

been with through the War. The city was snow-covered and

looked like jagged teeth

because it was bombed out and

devastated. I may say we didn't

The Americans really wanted to go home and were anxious to leave. They weren't supposed to fraternise with the "Froleens", but, as anything could be bought with a cigarette or chocolate, it was probably

happening but hidden from The Germans were very distressed, but we had absolutely no sympathy for them because we had seen the devastation they had caused. We were very stony about them.

### Michael Alexander, writer and Colditz PoW, captain in the 2nd SAS regiment.

On Christmas Day 1945, I stood on the platform at Calais station trying to board the rubber-tyred train known as "la Micheline" bound for Paris. All seats were reserved for VIPs. It was the only train of the day. I had lost my bet that I would have Christmas dinner in the then-forbidden capital.

l should not have been at Calais at all. Military conditions still prevailed there. Stationed near Colchester with the 2nd SAS regiment, with a dubious mission to Chunking happily aborted, I had borrowed the regimental motorboat moored on a local river and with two brother officers chugged down the east coast kiddles did recitations, and we played charades. More gener-ally, I suppose there was a feel-ing that things were going to be different, that the Tories had had their day. Churchill had been wonderful during the War, but the minute it was they turned on him.

Dame Barbara Cartiand, Hor Junior Commander in the ATS, lady welfare officer and librarian to all services in Bedfordshire.

Both my brothers were killed at Dunkirk, and my husband died later from the wounds he go when he was 18 in the First World War, so you wouldn't feel Christmas was a frightfully glamorous or exciting time that year, but we wanted the children

to enjoy it - I had small children. During the War I was in the ATS and looked after 50,000 only lady welfare officer I bought thousands of wedding dresses that Christmas, which they kept at the War Office so that everyone could get matried in white. In fact, comples still come up to me now and say, "It was due to you that we were able to get married in white. So it wasn't heavy gloom all the time, but I still missed my brothers terribly. It was rather a sad Christmas, but I have always believed it was a time for the children.

### Jean White, traince teacher in Canterbury.

We were still very heavily rationed, of course, so there weren't very great festivities. We were quite lucky because our father kept hens, so we had one for the table, and also you were allowed extra food if you

sold your eggs. As far as decorating the house was concerned, there was nothing - we had to make all our own. We made them out of sweetie papers, milk bottle tops, all those sorts of things, and we couldn't get a proper Christmas tree, so we painted the branch of an apple tree and hung the things on that.

Everything was desperatel to paint our houses or decorate in any way, but what was lovely was that there was no blackout so we could shine candles out into the street. We were also all and across the Channel for a terribly short of fuel, and were consequently very cold. My sister stayed in bed most of the

### Kenneth Clark, corporal in the Royal Engineers.

clandestine landing. We

attended the Christmas Eve

Ball at the Hotel de Ville

We met our Waterloo next

morning on Calais station. As

"la Micheline" moved off, a

papers and ordered us to leave

town. We got into our little boat

and headed for home. Christ-

mas Day in an open boat on a

wet and windy Channel without

our loved ones was a flop. To

make matters worse, we got

stuck on a sandbank and had to

get out and push - an odd sen-

Beryl Bainbridge, novelist,

was a schoolgiri in Formby,

We were near some pine

woods, so we had a Christmas

tree, though there weren't very

many to be had that Christmas.

I remember decorations being

up in the hall, and everybody put a small Christmas tree-

type thing in the window to

show they were celebrating.

We went to the carol service on

Christmas Eve at the local

church, and there was mulled

wine afterwards - that was a sort of social do - but from

Christmas morning onwards,

unless you were going to see

relatives, you kept in the house

Rationing was still in, though

people didn't seem to care

much about that. What people

had done each Christmas dur-

ing the War was "buy" a pig

from the local farmer, keep the

kitchen scraps and give them to

the farmer to give the pig - and

then at Christmas you'd have

your ham. I remember my

father going into Liverpool to

the wonderful half-covered

market to buy turkey and ham,

and waiting until half-past six

when they cut the prices. We

had sixpenny bits in the Christ-

mas pudding, which were cleaned with HP sauce, and

there was very little to drink -just sherry really, not very much

at all. The church choir came

round and sang a whole hymn

at the gates - they didn't come

to the door - and then one per-

son would come round the

houses and collect donations.

I suppose we're talking here

about people who were sort of

lower middle class, and who were trying to climb upwards, and they didn't go out to the

pubs at Christmas: that was

considered not very nice. On

Boxing Day the in-laws came.

usually by train from wherever

they lived, and you all had high

tea - turkey and ham. There

was, of course, no telly, so you

sang songs round the piano, which was rather nice, and the

sation out of sight of land.

bossy major asked for our

A Christmas Day spent in an unseasonably hot place is always memorable, even though Christmas 1945 was such a long

while ago. The hot place was Jamaica, a delightful island to be sent to at the age of 18 to serve your National Service. We office wallahs were looking after the paperwork of an infantry battalion stationed in the colony in case of civil unrest (there wasn't any). After six months the beaches bored us and three of us decided to climb to the change of air camp 4,000ft above

Kingston for Christmas dinner. Our garb reflected our odd status: half mufti, tropical shirts above khaki shorts, army boots and rucksacks. We soon passed through the black suburbs and over the watered gardens of the white district.

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The real climb began on the dusty road snaking up the mountainside. We scrambled up the steeper pathways that crossed and recrossed the road. Sweetwood, wild fig, orange trees (very green oranges) and giant fern surrounded us as we reached the lusher heights. And the solitaire bird sang to us, a high and low note sounding "sweet

song, sweet song.

So we reached Newcastle, its 19th-century barrack rooms and bungalows perched on the terraces and half-hidden by trees. Socks and boots were removed on the Naafi verandah, and we were brought beer by a German prisoner of war. (The presence of these men was one of the many surprises of Jamaican life - they were mainly merchant seamen caught at sea on the outbreak

of war.)
The tropical sunset was soon upon us - pink, purple, light green, lilac, deep purple, black black, always the same magic, but on this Christmas meht we looked down on the twinkling lights of Kingston far below, their pattern reflected by the fireflies winking on and off in nearby trees.

And at midnight we lit a nos-talgic wood fire in the bare bungalow we had "borrowed" and settled down under blankets to sleep in the firelight.

On Boxing Day we decided to climb to the top of Blue Mountain. And we did ....

> Interviews by Richard Preston and **Scott Hughes**

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I must have been in Berlin with the American occupying force, writing about the 82nd Airborne Division, whom I'd

Paul Vallely retraces the steps of the Three Wise Men through Syria, Jordan and finally to Bethlehem - through a world in which many things have remained unchanged despite centuries of political turmoil

# Journey of the modern magi

The darkness crept swiftly down upon the wreckage of the castle Saladin, built in the 12th century to protect the ancient oasis of Palmyra from the predations of the infidel Crusaders. It was a storybook castle of towers and turrets on top of a jagged hill overlooking the extensive ruins of the first-century city whose ruined colonnades were laid out in clear lines below.

The water has flowed there, the only rater source for hundreds of miles in the heart of the Syrian desert, for at least 4,000 years, keeping Palymra for millennia at the crossroads of the carwan trade: No one knows whether the Three Wise Men of Christian legend existed. No one can be sure where they began their search for the child whose birth was to usher in a new era. But one thing is certain, whatever their starting point, they would have passed through Palmyra. A journey to retrace their steps – on which I was accompanied by two other modern magi, Bishop Rowan Williams, the former Professor of Divinity at Oxford, and Professor Heather Couper, an astronomer - passed through a land in which many things remain unnervingly

It is still a region of turnoil and political tension; it is still dominated by imperial powers of one kind or another. In those days control had recently passed from Alexander the Great in the east to the west of Imperial Rome. It is a polarity that remains today, with an Israel which looks to the west and a Palestine which looks east to Mecca. Outside the Saracen castle, even before the sky was completely dark, a single star appeared. There are dozens of theories about the Star of Bethlehem: it may have been a supernova or a comet. But it is most likely to have been created by a conjunction

of Jupiter with another planet, Saturn.
A triple conjunction took place in
the zodiacal constellation of Pisces in the year 6BC (the year in which historians now think Christ was born). The Magi had the planet that represented the ruler of the world (Jupiter) conjoined with the star of Palestine (Saturn, which was also the star of jus-tice) in the constellation of the Jews (Pisces). To a Parthiau magus it would have signalled that a ruler of the world's last days was about to be born among the Hebrews in Palestine.

The Magi throught gifts suitable for a temporal monarch - gold, a symbol of wealth; frankmeense, a sign of spice, which spoke of sorrow. They are symbols which still speak of life in the Middle East today.

A week's camel ride from Palmyra lies Damascus, the oldest continuously occupied city in the world. Its ancient spice market, a blur of bright colours, exotic smells and hard bargaining, had frankincense in plenty. It was appro-priate, for the capital is one of the region's centres of power. In the days of the Magi it was an important province of the Roman Empire. Today it is the most formidable of Israel's neighbours.

In the coffee houses and fountained courtyards of Damascus, the talk was of Israel. For public consumption the rhetoric was uncompromising. The Golan Heights are ours. There can be no compromise.

The Israelis must withdraw. In private, however, it was all more muanced. The Foreign Minister, I was told, had recently briefed army officers and Ba'ath party officials about the potential benefits of peace. The Quote for the Day carried by the state-controlled newspaper frequently now constitutes a message for peace. Only days after we left the city it was amounced that negotiations between Syria and Israel are to recommence in

n Amman, one of Jordan's Christian leaders. Fr Moussa Adeli, an Arab by birth and a Melchite priest of the Latin rife, issued an invitation to dine. He was preoccupied with a journey of a different kind—that of the unending stream to his door of tracis who have crossed the border in search of help. Christian and Muslim alike, they are not just poor but malnourished and made desperate by the economic collapse of their country under United Nations sanctions following the Gulf War.

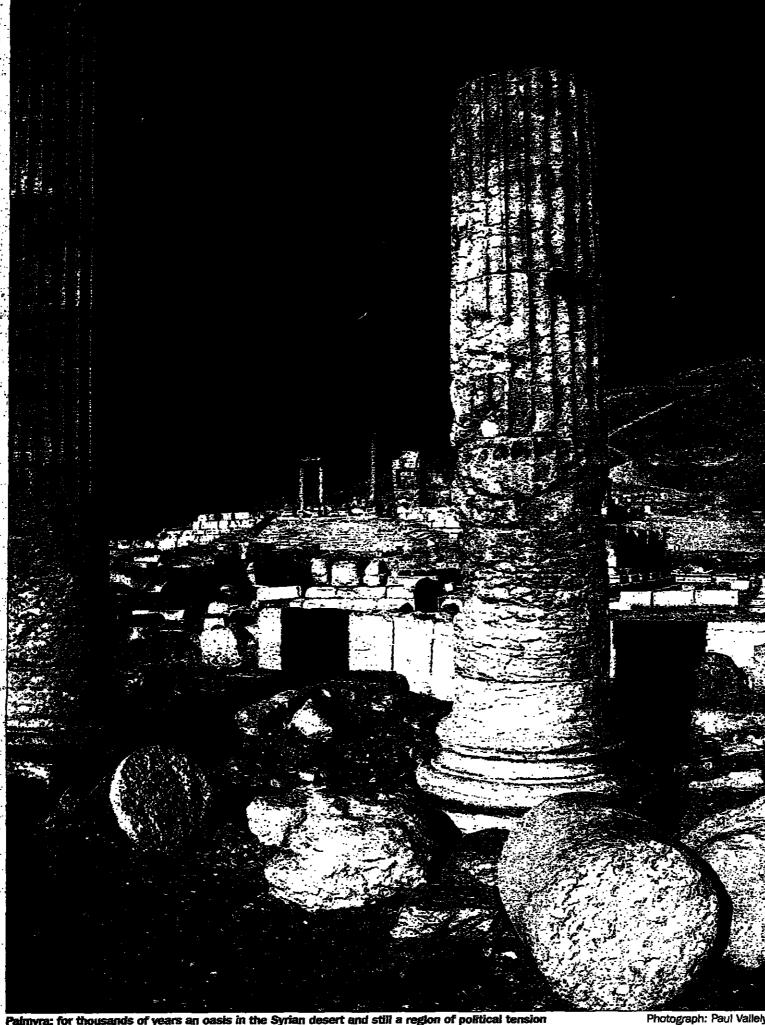
Huge numbers of ordinary people are going hungry, many are starving, many more are ill – deprived of medicine as well as food," he said. He gives them food, where he can, and organises relief operations into parts of the country that can easily be reached from Amman.

Fr Moussa is a Christian and no friend of Saddam Hussein, but he was vehe-ment in his advocacy of the need for a change in policy by the UN, to lift the

"In Iraq, people are losing part of their humanity," he said. The picture he painted was one that, in other circumstances, would be the subject of dra-matic coverage by the world's television companies. "If you want to know what bell is like," concluded Fr Moussa with

devastating simplicity, "go to lraq."
In Jordan, we had found anyth, real sorrow. The source of that sorrow, Iraq. was off the Wise Man trail. We were in search of the third gift, gold. So we headed for Jerusalem, the centre in which all the important political and

state. Everywhere new buildings were Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin,



Palmyra: for thousands of years an oasis in the Syrian desert and still a region of political tension

being thrown up as if they had descended overnight upon the land. The desert bloomed.

But at what cost? The water for irrigation, claim the Palestinians, is stolen from them: the Israelis take 80 per cent of the underground water. On the West Bank, 120,000 Jewish settlers take some 60 million cubic metres of water a year, leaving only 137 million cubic metres between the 1.5 million Paiestinians: 60 per cent of Israeli land is irrigated, compared with only 6 per cent of Palestinian land. And Palestinians have been prohibited since

1967 from digging new wells.

The Western Wall of the Temple in Jerusalem is a site of great boliness to Jews; historically, it is one of the few parts of the city that stands from the time of Christ's birth. This was Herod's temple. The Magi must have stood at the place at some time. They were after all, "invited" by the tyrant to visit him there. It is only a few hundred yards from the great Islamic and Christian shrine, the Dome of the Rock and

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was almost dusk; the Sabbath had begun. Our guide, an Arab Christian, was brusquely refused entrance even though below brash tourists wandered the vast courtyard before the huge stones of all that remains of Herodian glory. Then from the distance the sound of singing could be heard. A phalanx of men appeared, their arms round each other's shoulders, all wearing skullcaps and some with fringed prayer shawls. They danced in shuf-fling little steps across the yard like a rippling centipede. Their singing was

stentorian and aggressive.
It was as if, here, religion was some kind of competition, a contest in excess rather than a call to inner development. In places like this there is something about the collective religions experience that seems trivialising, superstitious and oppressive. indeed, Jerusalem has not changed which all the important political and since Christ's day, here religion is religious influences of the region meet, power, the subjugator of individuality, an oppressor. A few days later the

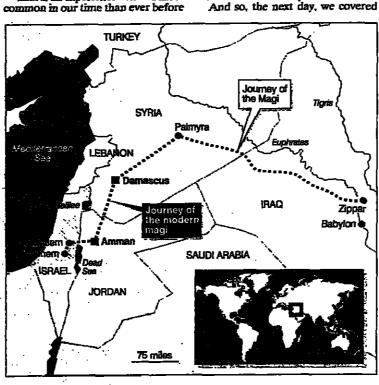
was to die at the hands of a religious – in the past 10 years the number of extremist. In Jerusalem, religion seems refugees and displaced people in the a rock not to be built upon but to be stumbled over, broken upon.

ut it has always drawn people as Well. Fr Jerome Murphy O'Con-nor, one of the leading authorities in biblical archaeology at the Ecole Biblique in the city had great doubts about the veracity of the Magi's story. "You're talking about a metaphor but a very powerful metaphor," he said, looking over Jerusalem from the roof of the college. "You might find the modern equivalents of the story in the experiences of refugees in so many dif-ferent countries – people guided by cir-cumstances over which they have no

That is an experience which is more

world has doubled - there are today some 20 million people without a home. The Holy Family were forced out of Bethlehem; they first went to Egypt, but even later they couldn't come back to Judaea because the next regime was just as bad," said Fr Jerome, "That's why they eventually ended up in Nazareth, where a new city was being built. That sort of

'guidance' resonates in our experience much more than the story of a star." Not far from Bethlehem is Deisha, a refugee camp for about 2,000 Palestinians. Perhaps that is the place where modern magi should seek a child to be born: not in wealth or power but on the margins of what the world holds to be important.



the final dozen or so miles of the journey, to Bethlehem. After all the grand history of Palmyra, Damascus and Jerusalem this final destination was a run-down, seemingly seedy little town where life looked very ordinary with shopkeepers setting out their stalls in its narrow streets in front of graffitipainted walls.

Entering Manger Square, the eye was drawn not to the basilica or even the new tourist shopping centre but to the police station with its lookout tower. Soldiers, casually swinging their arms, wandered around the square, much as members of the occupying Roman army must have done 2,000 years before. Bethlehem was in Arab hands until it was occupied by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967. But things were changing. The Israeli troops were preparing for a with-drawal in the week before Christmas as part of the peace plan to hand over West Bank towns to new Palestinian authorities.

Behind it all stood the basilica, a big building with a tiny door, only 4ft high We stooped and entered. It was not yet 8am, but inside they were singing already. The Church of the Nativity stands over the cave identified by the second-century Christian apologist, Justin Martyr; it was built by Helena, the mother of the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine. In the grotto beneath the altar we crawled on all fours to the spot where the birth is said to have taken place. How could anyone know this, part of me rumbled sceptically. But another part won-dered in a different way about the grey slate floor that lies beneath the mar-

ble and silver.
But in the end there was nothing there, apart from the residue of the veneration of millions of believers across the ages. Christ was born in a meaner place. He is not here, I thought, and wondered how far it was to the refugee camp at Deisha.

'Modern Magi', produced by Christine Morgan, can be heard on Radio 4 on Saturday 30 December at 11.02am.

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# Tartan terrors of Mr Blair

Should Tony Blair come to power and things go pear-shaped, taxes might rise, hospitals might close and squeegee merchants might stand poised and threatening at every urban road junction, but he and new Labour would never renege on their promise to set up a Scottish parlia-ment. That there should be devolution for Scotland is as east-iron a commitment as a political party has ever made. But, as we reported yesterday. Labour

is still wrestling with the ancient bugbear of allowing limited home rule in Scotland - the fabled West Lothian question. Asked most loudly in the late Seventies by the Labour MP for West Lothian, Tam Dalyell, the question is this; how can it be right for Scots MPs in Westminster to be allowed to exercise their votes and voices on matters affecting the lives of non-Scots. when English MPs may not do so over Scottish concerns?

One possibility, discussed by the Kilbrandon Commission back in 1973, was not to have Scots MPs at all, leaving West-minster as an English, Welsh (and Northern Irish) parliament. But this would either deprive the Scots of a voice on defence and foreign policy, or would be tantamount to full independence. Another answer, posed by the Callaghan government in its ill-fated Scotland Act of 1978, was to have a two-week coolingoff period on any vote primarily affecting England and Wales, in which the votes of Scots MPs had been decisive. It is hard to imagine such a recipe for confusion finding favour new.

That was why Labour turned to regional assemblies for England. If the English were to have their own little parliaments, exercising local power, then all would be in balance, Londoners, Scots, the Welsh, West Country folk etc - all would enjoy similar autonomy, while sending MPs to the House to decide national policy, OED.

Except, as Lubour finally admitted to itself last year, the English do not actually want a new tier of regional government. If unvilling, they fancy rather less

government altogether. Return to square one, then. This explains why Mr Blair is planning a new commission to think up some good answers to the West Lothian question in time for the next election. What might it come up with?

One recommendation it could make is simply to stop asking the question. The (unwritten) British constitution is full of anomalies, including the proposed status of Northern Ireland, this argument runs. And there is a great deal to be said for it. Despite all that has been said and written on the subject, it is impossible to detect any backlash against the campaign for Scottish autonomy in the rest of Britain. The chances are that the passage of legislation to allow a Scottish parlia-ment would attract little active resistance in the fens of East Anglia or the back streets of Manchester. No - any trouble will come later, when

unpopular measures for England and Wales are passed with the support of Scots MPs. Especially since it would then be discovered that the Scots have roughly one MP for every 70,000 people, while the rest of the country has only one for every 91,000. That is why Labour is now under such pressure to countenance the reduction of the number of Scots members

Labour's problem is obvious. It holds the vast majority of Scottish seats - so a reduction would make Labour governments less sustainable. Unless. Unless Mr Blair's party also endorses the idea of ruling in co-operation with the Liberal Democrats and accepting some form of electoral reform. Which, coincidentally, is what Peter Mandelson says he was wrongly quoted as advocating before Christmas. And - as we all know - a Mandelson misquote one week has a habit of becoming Labour

# Why the callers got the right man

Seventy-seven thousand self-selecting telephone callers do not necessarily constitute a reliable test of the nation's mood. Some of those who - in the four hours available - called the BBC Radio 4 Today programme's poll for Personality of the Year may have been solicited to do so by political parties, may have followed the old Ulster precept of "vote early, vote often", or may have got the number for Tony Blair mixed up with that for the Queen Mother - it is easily done.

Nevertheless, their choice of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence - who was murdered while attempting to break up a fight outside his school - is of great interest. Of course, he had just been in the news - but so had the Princess of Wales (fourth). True, he had been killed, and there is always a sympathy vote - but this was also the case with Yitzhak Rabin (third). Something more than the obvious was going on.

Mr Lawrence was a victim of a phenomenon that fills many of us with great anxiety and fear. That a group of young bows in pursuit of a trivial feud were prepared to use deadly violence against an innocent man exemplifies the culture of arbitrary lawlessness that seems to have seized sections of our youth. The murder highlighted other stories of gangs roam-

The Queen's Christmas message to

1 the Commonwealth was deliv-

ered in two different versions this

year. One was the version seen on

British television, and one was a spe-

cial version done in Her Maiesty's

very own special French for the Cana-

"Messieurs, mesdames, petits

"C'est votre reine ici.
"Oui. Elizabeth No 2 à Londres.

neige au Canada. Un Noël blanc. Et

"Ici en Angleterre, chaque année,

year after year, nous disons: 'Well,

pensez-vous que nous aurons un white Christmas? Et chaque année

le weatherman dit: Well, les condi-

tions som en position pour un white

Christmas! Oui, vous avez un vent qui

vient directement de Siberia, les clear

skies en night-time, basse humidité.

etc. etc! "Et chaque année, sur Christmas

Day dans le matin, les petits enfants

sautent de leurs lits pour aller à la

fenetre et regarder s'il y a de la neige

dans le jardin. Et chaque année le

same old story - no snow! Un grey

Christmas! Et les bookmakers disent;

Ah ha! Tous les punters qui ont mis

yous avez beaucoup de luck!
"Ici en Angleterre, no such luck.

-Un bon Noël a yous tous!

dian market. Here it is ...

entants et bebés de Canada.

ing school premises looking for victims, of the widespread possession and easy availability of the types of blades that never grace a kitchen, and of authority held in complete contempt by teenagers. Finally, it suggested what can be the fate of those citizens who "have a go", whose conscience does not allow them to pass by. So the vote for Mr Lawrence may reflect our pessimism in the face of disintegration and brutishness.

There is a more hopeful interpretation available. Mr Lawrence could probably have fashioned a successful teaching career anywhere in the profession. Educated at a public school himself, he would have risen in the private sector, teaching bright, confident children from privileged homes. But that was not what he wanted. The challenge for him - as it is for us - was how to educate the children from the inner city and the sink estates. He did it by exercising imagination in his teaching methods, by demanding high standards from his pupils and by constructing a safe environment for them to

Mr Lawrence was a citizen activist, a man who understood that individuals have to take action for a community to prosper. He is, therefore, an appropriate and a wise choice as the man of 1995.

une fortune sur un white Christmas!

Nous avons fait un killing! Chaque

année la même histoire! Pauvres vieux punters, ha ha ha! Ils ne vont

férent. A Balmoral c'est différent. En

Ecosse il y a des blizzards et des drifts

de neige à 10ft (trois metres) de pro-

fondeur et des gusts de vent à

100mph (180kph), et il y a aussi tous les Scotsmen qui disent: 'Mon dieu - c'est un bon weather pour les brass

"Mais vous ne voyez pas tout cela sur la TV de London. Ah non, le

white Christmas en Perthshire est

nothing dans le London press. Un

blizzard dans Scotland, cc n'est pas

news à London. Si vous avez une

petite hurricane à Wimbledon et un

toof-slate tombe sur un passer-by.

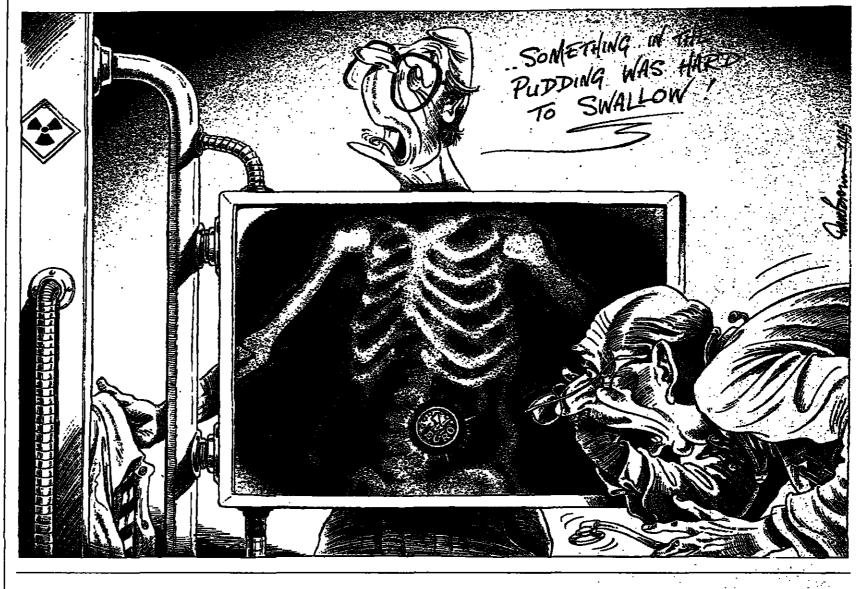
mon Dieu, c'est headline news à

London! Mais si vous avez un total

"Of course, en Scotland c'est dif-

jamais apprendre ...

Bon Noël, Canada! Ici le royal low-down



# • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

# Cardiff has been saved from an operatic folly | Festival for pagans and viewers

From Ms Liz Mahoney Sir: According to Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the Cardiff Bay Opera House Trust, the Millennium Commission's refusal to fund the proposed opera house

is "incomprehensible". The only "incomprehensible" aspect of the Cardiff Bay Opera House shambles is the arrogance of the Cardiff Bay Opera House Trust and the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. The opera pounds of public money on supporting a design that was unpopular and over budget. The Millennium Commission knew

It is not yet clear why Cardiff Bay Development Corporation poured public money into the opera house trust, despite massive public opposition to Zaha Hadid's "crystal necklace" design. The then Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, insisted almost a year ago that

The last thing we want out of the Millennium Commission is a group of white elephants, so it's public support that really

The trust planned to seek private investment totalling £40m, but ignored the fact that the Cardiff Bay Business Forum voted overwhelmingly for Professor Manfredi Nicoletti's "glass wave", after presentations to forum members from Zaha Hadid. Manfredi Nicoletti. Norman Foster and Itsuko

The suggestion in 1994 by Mathew Prichard, former chairman of the opera house trust, that

Ask the parents

From Mr David Mann and Mrs

Sir In her article "Whose child is

this anyway?" (20 December). Mary Braid highlights the Kafka-

esque world in which parents of

severely mentally handicapped

people find themselves because

white-out dans les Highlands, c'est un

matter de presque totale indifférence

"C'est la même chose au Canada. I expect. Au Canada vous avez 3.000

kilomètres de freeze-up pour Christ-

mas, avec des big icicles comme des

bicycles, et c'est non-news elsewhere.

"Vous n'avez pas switched on la TV

Vous voulez écouter le low-down

Vous voulez écouter mes opinions

aux media de London.

"Oui, j'en suis sûr.

Well, enough petit talk.

pour un peu de chit-chat royal.

"Vous ne voulez pas écouter mes opinions sur le weather, right? Right.

sur Princess Diana, et le hoo-ha à

sur les goings on de Princess Diana

"Eh bien, voilà ce que je pense. Je pense que la divorce va venir en 1996.

Oui, royal-wise, 1996 sera Le Year de

Royal Divorce.
"Mon petit fils Charles, et cette

hoyden Diana - divorce! Mon petit

Andrew et cette dreadful Fergie -divorce! Moi et le Duc d'Edimbourg

une question de divorce avec moi et

mon hubby roval. Moi et Phil le

Gree, nous sommes dans un stable

relationship. Actually, c'est une petite

"Non, e est une joke. Ce n est pas

Buckingham Palace, n'est-ce pas?

et Fergie et tout le royal rat-pack?

"Cardiff will be a focus of the world in architecture because we have had the courage to choose a radical design" has returned to haunt Cardiff.

supported and filled by the public. A controversial building, primarily for putting on shows with minority appeal, would be unlikely to be viable and so would world in architecture because we have had the courage to choose a radical design" has returned to haunt Cardiff Yours sincerely.

LIZ MAHONEY 23 December

From Mr Peter Hirsch Sir: Except for those who would

have lottery money at any price house trust has spent millions of and those who regard a rejection on any grounds as yet another insult to Wales, few people will be sorry that the design chosen and put forward for grant-aid has been rejected (report, 23 December). Many, indeed, will be relieved that an unpopular design will not be imposed upon an uninterested populace.

Most will not care: the design Sixties buildings now in terminal decay. Comparatively expensive, it was regarded by all except the selection committee as less practical and attractive than several other designs, notably Nicoletti's "glass wave". This folly was likely to be difficult to fill and so finance; to keep clean and so

attract visitors An opera house should have both elegance and utility. Because of the highbrow association, it should have been called anything but an "opera house". But it should still have style, be in keeping with its surroundings and have wide, popular appeal. Several other designs met these criteria. They would have been

of the attitude of many social

workers. The assumption that all

people disabled in this way can

make decisions about their lives

and be treated as if they were

normal is stupid and cruel. The

tendency to disregard the views

of parents who have looked after

them for many years is offensive. While most mentally handi-

joke avec mon mari et moi. Philip dit:

'Elizabeth et moi sont dans un stable

relationship. Elle est toujours dans le

"Philip a un grand sense d'humour

"Entre vous et moi, un sense

d'humour est très nécessaire quand

vous etes la Reine de l'UK. Tres, très

necessaire. C'est un iob tres serieux.

Quand John Major rend visite à

Buckingham Palace, c'est yawn-

time. Non. c'est mega-yawn-time. comme dit Fergie. Mais il est drôle aussi. Monsieur Major. sans le

et dans un moment vous avez un car-toon du Christmas Carol, ou Monsieur

Bean fan son Christmas Shopping, ou

queique rubbish comme ça. Donc. un

bon Noël. God save the Common-wealth. Nous sommes une grande

famille de nations, un message de

goodwill partout, keep the Unon

Jack burning, etc. etc. except in Nige-

ria. Nigeria a été tres naughty cette

année, ce business de Kon Saro-

Wiwa, tres mauvais business, tut, tut,

messicurs, mais anyway, tout le nor-

mal Commonwealth guff est sur

"Au revoir, tout le monde. See you

Ceelax ERII.

Roger, over et out."

"Anyway, mon time est presque up.

stable avec les chevaux!

comme ca.

not have been a proper way to

spend public money. If Lord Crickhowell and his committee want to win this one, they should change now to a design that commands wide-spread public enthusiasm and support and then resubmit their

application.
Yours faithfully. PETER HIRSCH Coedarhydyglyn, near Cardiff 23 December

From Dr Gordon Wilson

Sir: I was intrigued by the unimaginative assumptions implicit in your headline, "No daring, no imagination just cycle did not capture their imagination.
Boxy and ungraceful in appearance, it looks too much like many opera houses feature in my hopes. A traffic-free cycle ride and a beautifully sung aria feed my emotions in similar ways. So I imagine that Wales gets its new opera house but not a car park to go with it. I imagine that it has a covered, secure cycle park, and a public transport system to get

everyone else there. Finally, I imagine that my pro-posal is funded by reparations from those who have so unimaginatively waged war on the quality of life in this country for the past 16 years. Yours faithfully,

GORDON WILSON Leeds

capped people can live at home or in normal surroundings, there are some who need the freedom of a campus "village" development, as advocated by Rescare, in which they can move around unaccompanied and in safety and go to day services on their own. To place such people in an ordi-nary house so that they can go out only under supervision is to cause a major deterioration in their quality of life and to turn their

home into a prison. Yours faithfully, DAVID AND DAPHNE MANN Cobham, Surrey 20 December

# The official Sloane Ranger authorship

From Mr Robert Smith Sir: In your profile of Peter York (16 December), you describe him as the best-selling author of The Official Sloane Ranger Handbook, which suggests that he is its sole author. As the book's publisher while at Ebury Press, may I put on the record the truth about its

authorship.
Peter York was not the author but the co-author, and the book would never have achieved its success without his co-author, Ann Barr. It was her deep under standing of the Sloane Ranger species, her loyal and extensive network of informants, and not least the accuracy, wit and brilliance of her writing that was largely responsible for catapulting the book out of the social contines of Harpers & Queen (where she was deputy editor) into the national consciousness. Yours sincerely

prochain Noël. Vive le Quebec libre! ROBERT SMITH Smith Gryphon Publishers London, N1

From Fr. Dominic Kirkham Sir: The variety of interesting views expressed by your corres-pondents about Christmas must surely persuade us that we have all inherited a unique festival through a long, complex process

of cultural osmosis and syncret-

ism, which gives space for everyone and everything. The process is both ironic and subtle: ironic in that the Church, once mocked by pagans (cf Celsus) for having no great festivals, sacral cults, altars or priesthood, should now find roles reversed; subtle, in that so-called latter-day pagans or secularists should want to affirm what is central to the mystery - the value of family and friendship, generosity and bene-

volence, the social need for peace and reconciliation. Here is a unique festive time, a cultural event in which all of any faith - or none - can share in some degree. If this leaves wouldbe purists or cynics, zealots or iconoclasts disappointed, then first they should tell us of a better alternative for a fragmented, post-modern society, which makes room (at the inn) for all. Yours festively,

DOMINIC KIRKHAM Corpus Christi Priory Manchester 24 December

From Ms Vicki Piper Sir. I was very surprised to read Meg Carter's seasonal article, "The TV's on but no one's home" (19 December), which appeared to be a remarkably uncritical report of a recent survey carried out by the advertising agency JWI There is no evidence to suggest that "attention levels are at an all-time low" at Christmas the crux of the report. TV viewing on Christmas Day is still by far the most popular activity with the

British population. The heaviest overall viewing day in the year remains 25 December and is, of course, overwhelmingly successful for BBC Television, with people tuning in for more than five hours and with many of our programmes achiev-ing their highest audiences of the

Appreciation Index scores (the qualitative measure) for our Christmas Day programmes are usually very high and well above the genre average, providing a clear indication that our viewers are anything but "bored" and 'passive".

As research from several other advertising agencies has shown, high AJ scores usually reflect a high attention level. Yours faithfully,

Vicki Piper Head of Television Research BBC Broadcasting Research London, W12 22 December

From The Rev Peter Hatton Sir: Readers who lack Campbell's "understanding" of the Bible (letter, 23 December) may not be aware that the Talmud (which he regards as a source for the story of the star in the east that led the Magi to Bethlehem) was compiled some 300 years after the last of the Gospels. It seems that the Evangelists. according to Mr Campbell's theory, were gifted not only with "imagination" but also with powers of foresight so miraculous that they make their "invented" stories appear mun-

dane by comparison. For my part, despite years of studying the Bible, I make no claim to understand it. What has become increasingly clear to me, as I have wrestled with the Scriptures, is their power to understand me and human nature as it was in the first century and remains now.

**Уош**з, PETER HATTON Droitwich, Worcester 23 December

# Proxy behaviour

From Mr T. J. Cramb Sir: I have just had a letter from Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of Powergen. He thanks me for my support as a shareholder for his proposal to merge with Mid-lands Electricity which, he reports, was approved unanimously at the Extra General Meeting in October.

In fact his thanks are misguided, as I gave him my proxy to vote against the motion. Consequently his assertion that he received complete support was at best misleading, or else he did not egister my negative vote.

How many others were like-wise disenfranchised? Yours faithfully, T. J. CRAMB Wolsingham, Co Durham 19 December

# Sainsburys' gift

From Mr Bamber Gascoigne Sir: Rarely have I seen such a mean and curmudgeonly comment as Jonathan Glancey's inaccurate statement today (2) December) that the Sainsburn Wing at the National Gallery "named after a superstore chain" It is named after the three brothers whose generosity built it. Yours,

BAMBER GASCOIGNE Richmond, Surrey 21 December

# A permanent home

From Mr Chris Holmes Sir: Families forced to move frequently with little hope of a permanent home could become the norm rather than the exception "Council moved family 34 times", 20 December) if government proposals come into force next year.

The Department of the Environment's housing White Paper proposes to house vulnerable nomeless families in short-term tenancies in the private sector, but research published this year by Shelter has shown that living in temporary accommodation is severely disrupting the education of thousands of children.

Families recovering from the stable base from which to rebuild their lives.

Unless the Government rethinks its plans, the future for Britain's homeless children looks Yours faithfully, CHRIS HOLMES

Director London, EC1 20 December

Post letters to the Editor and

include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; email: letters@independent.co.nk) Letters may be edited for length

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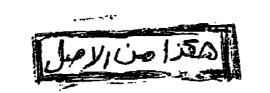
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# We need an Albert, not an Anthea



We don't have Prince Albert, but we do have Anthea Turner. He, the visionary consort, decreed that we should have a Great Exhi-bition in Hyde Park in 1851. She, the bubbly blonde, giggles us into pay-ing for a Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich, Derby, Birmingham or Bromley-by-Bow. The National Lottery is many things - a loathsome freasury scam, a degrading rip-off-but editying, inspiring, improving it is not. The line that joins Albert to Anthea is a descending plot of

But the punters' money for great public works is rolling in. Sums that would have glazed over the eyes of François Mitterrand, that enthusiast for great public works, are suddealy sloshing about the country looking for someone - anyone - to spend them. The nation is engaged on a manic spree, a binge bigger than anyone expected. A ramshackie apparatus, apparently designed to hand out no more than a trickle of charitable cash, has become a vast no profit bank rak- rules are; indeed, no one on the ing in millions a day. Nowhere is the commission seems to have the slightgulf between big money and little organisation more obvious than in lennium Exhibition. This is now being fixed in conditions of outrage- private operators. ous secrecy. An announcement of

ington World of Adventure. ical culture, the source of the funds fact, it would probably make it the

and, if they do, they probably expect little more than a neat futuristic

theme park, a well-meaning Chess-

of lottery spending so far, no one would be surprised if this exhibition turned out to be a tacky catastrophe. But let's be optimistic, let's pretend it can be made to work. Let's pretend Albert is in charge. What would

Step one: he would sack the Millennium Commission. Perhaps they are nice, good people; perhaps, in a way, they know what they are doing. But they could be running anything. They are just a carefully balanced, bureaucratically acceptable committee. Not one of the pipe. able committee. Not one of the nine - I include Michael Heseltine qualifies as the kind of risky, cantankerous, obsessed visionary this exhibition needs to make it work. They are, quite simply, too polite. Bring in, say, George Walden – he is, after all, giving up the MP game. Or Sir Crispin Tickell. Or Sir John Harvey-Jones. Or, dare I say it, Baroness Thatcher. Step two: change the rules ... all

the rules. This is a difficult step, since no one seems too clear what the est idea what the exhibition should be. We only know that there will be funded by the lottery and half by the

site and operator will be made in — Imagination, a design and comJanuary, but discussion about what — munications consultancy, and a conwe want and what we might be given sortium headed by Touche Ross in has been non-existent. People which the leading light seems to be scarcely know it is going to happen Lord Hollick. The commission has so far said it will provide up to £100m, making the total cost of the It still might be. Given the polit- making this one helluva party. In and the miserable, lunching littleness biggest millennium celebration on



earth, a World Expo comparable to Seville - and that drew 46 million

ages the worst possible solution. It encourages Disneyland. There is no doubt that real money can be made snow. Almost £1m a year still flows from the proceeds of Prince Albert's Great Exhibition. Two private bidders are now left The freeholds of the Albert Hall and

Yet the profit, brilliantly invested £100m, making the total cost of the in Kensington land, was an after-project £200m. But, rumour has it, thought. The idea - or "concept" as that figure could rise to £500m, we would now call it - came first. It resulted, among other things, in the Crystal Palace, one of the greatest buildings of the 19th century. It was

That scuzzy old lottery is producing lots of money for the Millennium. Let's go for the big one, says **Bryan Appleyard** 

also, thanks to the brilliance of its architect, Joseph Paxton, a cheap building. Public and private money people in eight months.

This financing structure, this spread of risk, is all wrong. It encourses the financial and cultural triumph.

That is what we should go for this time round. Someone should already have made it clear what this exhibition is meant to be as a way of preventing it becoming simply the lowest common commercial denominator. For once, the lottery money should underwrite excellence. The quality of the overall idea should be guaranteed from the outset, not buried beneath fatally cautious risk assessments. Anything may fail, but at least this way we could be sure of a glorious failure.

Step three: give it to London. Greenwich and Bromley-by-Bow are close enough to be regarded as one site, and the catchment area which, thanks to the Channel tunnel,

includes Brussels, Amsterdam and Paris - is vast. A hundred million visitors in the year is not an impossi-ble target. Nothing like this could be achieved in Birmingham or Derby. and if either of those sites were chosen the party would have to be scaled down to a possibly grand but ntially predictable theme park. The whole of the country can, in any case, be included simply by electronically networking the event. Provincial sites can work, but only on

mean anything.
Finally, step four: acquire a certain pigheaded confidence. A member of the commission has been heard to say that the exhibition should be 95 per cent about the past and 5 per cent about the future. One

a national basis. This exhibition will

have to be international if it is to

future may be frightening, it may be something the modern British have decided they are not very good at, but this is, after all, an exhibition about the millennium. If we selfconsciously make it about the past, then we are admitting failure, we are taking one more giant step down the road to Britain as a heritage theme park. I can just see the Tudor burger bars, the "authentic" Pickwickian inns serving micro-

Paxton's brilliant Crystal Palace (above) - one of the triumphs of

the Great Exhibition planned by Prince Albert (far left). A long line of decline joins it to the National Lottery and Anthea Turner (left)

Pigheaded confidence would ensure the suppression of such trash. A resurrected Albert would have the site wired to Shanghai and Los Angeles, to the whole world. He would find a new Brunel to engineer his boats and bridges. He would know that a past recreated is no past at all. Only by understanding and accepting its embodiment in the present is the past really allowed to breathe.

waved Cornish pasties.

Taking all these steps is difficult. This is not our contemporary style. We are a low-kev, ironic culture, dis playing what Martin Amis has called the sullenness of post-greatness". We laughed at Mitterrand's grands projets and we laugh even more now that the French economy is lurching towards implosion under the pressure of bureaucratic vainglory and inflated popular expectation. That, we think, is what you get for showing off, for taking yourself too seriously.

Of course, low-key irony has a certain value. We are still, happily, can hear the dull rumble of Prince one of the funniest nations on Albert turning in his grave. The earth. But a diet of nothing but

irony and under-ambition stunts the growth. It lets the wrong people run things because the ironists cannot be bothered. It hands the nation over to the suits - the managers and accountants - while the rest of us giggle and whine. And what would the suits build at Greenwich? A theme park, because they have seen one of those before.

So, occasionally, even the modern British need Albertian big ideas and ambitions. Our wit should derive some consolation from this, for there is a peculiarly pointed irony in the fact that something as scuzzy as the lottery has placed us, reluctantly maybe, in the position of being obliged to come up with some grands projets of our own. The British appetite for trash has forced us to make up our minds about what constitutes quality.

There are two - only two - alternatives when it comes to the Millennium Exhibition. Love it, to borrow from a fellow columnist, or shove it. Go for it, or forget it. A cheap theme park would be worse than nothing. A big, confident gesture would be better than anything. The lottery money is an absurd, disreputable windfall. But it is there now, and tinkering with a restaurant for the Royal Court theatre or thousands of tiny handouts to dubious and contentious organisations merely compounds the shabbiness, the Anthea Turnerishness of the entire enterprise. So let's suddenly, anarchically, offend against the mean spirit of the age. Let's go for the big one. It is what Albert would have done.

# A war the West can no longer ignore

# Brutality and lies mark Russia's campaign in Chechnya, reports Harold Elletson after a recent visit

most Western foreign ministers. The brutal war Russia is fighting there has accounted for tens of thousands of military and civilian casualties in the year since it began, and is reaching a new peak of intensity. It has involved the widespread destruction of prop-erty and the racing of Grozay, a city the size of Oxford. Russian forces in the republic have resorted to methods that would make the most hardened Bosnian warlord wince. Yet the West

still prefers to turn its back. stayed for four days in a village near Grozny. Every night the sound of shelling and machine-gun fire made it 200,000 troops in the Checken Republic at any one time. Contrary to the Russian government's official statements, these are not Interior Ministry troops but are drawn from virtually troops and a hartest for the Business and a hartest troops but are drawn from virtually every unit of the armed forces. The tempt for the Russians and a hatred majority of them are conscripts who of the Soviet system, engendered by

Checkinya has been conveniently are poorly motivated, badly trained abbrushed from the atlases of and terrified. A deserter told me that the first time he knew he was going to Chechnya was when the plane landed in Dagestan. He had been told he was being sent to St Petersburg. In addition to the regular armed forces, units of nayomniki — mercenaries — have been established by the security services. They consist of criminals prepared to serve as a means of earning time off their sentences. They are said to have been responsible for some of

the worst atrocities of the war. ill prefers to turn its back.

I recently visited Chechaya and are disciplined and highly motivated ayed for four days in a village near Russia maintains that it is patiently negotiating a peace settlement with individual field commanders who clear that the war was far from over. operate independently of General Despite the relatively small area under. Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen Russian control, there are more than leader. All the evidence I saw, how-

their mass deportation under Stalin in 1944, which made them leap at the chance of independence when the USSR began to break apart. An old man showed me the weapons his sons used against the Russians: assault rifles, mortars, grenades, an anti-tank rocket and a grenade launcher. "We buy these from the Russians," he said. "They sell us their weapons and we use

them to kill them."

Chechen resistance has been stiffened by the brutality of the Russian campaign. Ramzan, a 28-year-old man, was tortured for 40 days after being captured and taken to a filtration camp". He showed me where his fingernails had been removed so that needles could be inserted into the nerve endings. "They put a metal crown around my skull," he said, "and tightened it every day so that the bone in my head splintered in about 30 different places. The pressure began to force my eyeballs out of their sockets so that eventually I could see my left eye with my right." Such stories are commonplace. So too are the descrip-tions of Russia's sustained aerial bom-

bardment of villages and other nonmilitary targets in the mountainous countryside beyond Grozny. When Roshni-Chu was attacked in October, dozens of its inhabitants were killed.

It is the use of air power that has led the Chechens, in the recent past, to try to take their war over the border into the Russian Federation. When Shamil Basayev and his guerrillas attacked Budennovsk while President Yeltsin was attending the Halifax summit, the world's media were told that there had been a terrorist attack on a civilian hospital. In fact Basayev, who had lost all 27 of his living relatives in the conflict, had led an attack on the air base at Budennovsk. His men took some casualties and called at the hospital on their way back to Chechnya. The Russian government sent its forces to attack the hospital. In the process several patients were killed.

Now the Chechens vow to attack other targets in Russia, "We won't put a bomb on the Moscow metro or attack civilian targets," one rebel fighter, a former professor, told me. "But we will hit military installations,

particularly those connected with continuing the war."

There are many theories about the cause of this brutal war, the most fashionable of which is that it is connected with Russia's legitimate desire to control pipeline routes from oil-rich Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, Whatever the reason, the West can no longer afford

to ignore it. Economics alone suggests that the West may be forced to rethink its tacit support. Earlier in the year, a Russian economist estimated that the conflict had already cost the Russian government over £2.5bn - almost as much as the IMF and Western governments have pumped into the Russian economy in the form of credits and soft loans.

Russia had better be careful. By the time its application to join the Council of Europe is considered on 25 January, Chechnya may finally be on the world's agenda. It will no longer be possible, even for the appeasers in the Foreign Office, to turn a blind eye.

The writer is Conservative MP for

ANOTHER VIEW Denis MacShane

# The Prince of Darkness goes into print

Ten years ago I sat nervously along-side Peter Mandelson, waiting to be interviewed by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee for the post of director of communications. My pitch was drawn from what I had seen working successfully in other countries. Parties of the centre-left that looked outward to society did well. Those that debated internalities

were doomed. I didn't get the job, thank goodness, because Peter Mandelson's period as Labour communications supremo brought together a person and a post to fuse in a way that is rare in British politics, Part of John Major's troubles

stem from the fact that there is not a single member of the Cabinet or official in Conservative Central Office

who looks happy doing his or her job. Mandelson was always far more than a media guru. He was and will always be a 110 per cent pure-bred political animal. In the Seventies, he worked for the TUC, in the private office of a cabinet minister and was a Lambeth councillor - a triple training given to few MPs. In every sense, he is a politician more than he is a journalist, which is why the news that he is to take the ultimate political risk of bringing out a book is much to be welcomed. Mandelson's problem is that his

reputation lives on even while he seeks to shed his skin as a media guru. He gets the blame for every unattributed story - and there are far too many of those - that appears in the press about some new development in new Labour's policy evolution.
Dubbed the Prince of Darkness, he

is anything but an eminence grise operating in the shadows of party policy making. Mandelson will debate in public with anyone, including Arthur Scargill. I recently listened to an interesting view of Labour's programme of government which he put forward in debate with Richard Bur-

in the Commons. He pops up on television, writes for papers and never knowingly turns down an invitation to speak at the scores of networking gatherings in Labour's broad church.

Many Labour Party members may not like what he has to say, and many more resent (or are jealous of?) his closeness to Tony Blair, but he does not hide his views. Now they will be available in the most public - and attackable - manner of all, in a book.

The synopsis published in the Sunday papers has the feel of a come-on to hook a publisher and we shall have to see what the published version has

it be as radical as the recent books from Andrew Marr or Will Hutton? At least it will be a whole book, pages and pages of it. Mandelsonism, if it exists, may step forward from being a black hole of supposedly secretive manipu-lation to the bright light of argument and policy. But if Peter Mandelson became just another politician, who would replace him as the new demon - whether of the left or right - that Labour has always appeared to need? Or is new Labour sufficiently adult to sleep at night and live by day without

having to believe in its own bogeymen? den MP at a meeting of Tribune MPs to say. Will it be a new Crosland? Will The writer is Labour MP for Rotherham. SINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Late rally: Agreement with brewing giant turns tables on chief executive of Granada as drama intensifies over hostile £3.2bn bid

# Whitbread deal on restaurants boosts Forte's defence

JOHN SHEPHERD CLIFFORD GERMAN

Forte will today announce the proposed sale of its £1bn restaurant business to Whitbread, to head off demands for clarification from the Takeover Panel.

The sale, aimed at fending off a £3.2bn hostile bid from Grana-

well-informed reports in the press over the Christmas holiday. Whithread is expected to offer £900m in cash and to assume around £100m in debt in return for the Little Chef. Happy Eater, Welcome Break, and

Côté France chains, which Forte originally intended to demerge in an attempt to increase shareholder value and to da, was already the subject of scupper Granada's bid. The

### Battle for Forte The bid so far:

- 22 November: Granada launches £3.3bn bid 24 Nov: Offer document published
- 3 December: Forte announces sale of Lillywhites • 8 Dec: Defence document published by Forte, outlines
- demerger proposals • 19 Dec: talks to sell White Hart hotel chain collapse
- 20 Dec: sale of Forte's US Travelodge chain announced
- 21 Dec: Council of Forte given leave to vote as it wishes
- 24 Dec: planned sale of restaurants to Whitbread

### Key dates to come:

- 2 January: Day 39 (no more financial information from
- 9 Jan: Day 46 (Granada last chance to increase bid barring Takeover Panel ruling that Whitbread constitutes white knight bidder)
- 25 Jan: Day 60: normal bid period ends



Quick response: Peter Jarvis, Whitbread's chief executive, confirmed his negotiating skills by pulling off the agreement — Photograph: Edward Syke

virtually wipe out Forte's debts,

at the cost of shrinking the com-

pany's business by one-third. Forte has until 2 January to oublish its final defence document, which could also include a forecast increased dividend. The deal with Whitbread, however, is conditional on Forte shareholders first rejecting Granada's bid, which is due to

The bid was unveiled in Lon- four shares plus £23.50 in cash

Rocco was shooting in Yorkshire. Forte's deal with Whitbread appears to turn the tables on Granada's chief executive Gerry Robinson, who was spending Christmas at home in county Donegal. The Forte restaurants Whitbread plans to buy are precisely the assets which Granada most wants. Granada's initial offer is for

don on 22 November, while Sir for every 15 Forte shares. At last week's closing price of 635p for Granada the offer is almost exactly in line with Forte shares at 326p in the market and currently values Forte at £3.23bn.

A deal with Whitbread ahead of the first closing date for the Granada offer will shift the onus back on to the Granada camp. Mr Robinson will now have to increase his offer by at least another £600m, according bid clock.

to independent analysts in the City, or sit tight and risk seeing the Forte shareholders vote for the Whitbread cash. That would give Sir Rocco and his fellow directors time to complete the transformation of their company into a focused hotels business. A higher bid must be made before 9 January unless Granada now asks the Takeover Panel to stop the

If Granada's bid fails, Mr Robinson will come under increasing pressure from his shareholders, especially institutions. Some in the City had suggested he had chosen the wrong target, saying that companies similar to Granada would have made more sense. A favourite choice is Pearson, the media and financial services company, viewed as

# ITC to rule on TV share scheme

The Independent Television Commission is expected to rule. as early as tomorrow, on a controversial plan proposed by Granada and Carlton to meet Government rules on their shareholdings in ITN, the national news provider, writes Mathew Horsman.

The two ITV licence holders, which each own 36 per cent of ITN, have been told to reduce their shares to 20 per cent each by 31 December. But they have been unable to reach a satisfactory deal with potential buyers, and were still holding the shares just before Christmas.

The two companies have concocted a parking scheme, under which they would undertake not to exercise voting rights attached to the excess shares. The ITC is expected to look long and hard at the arrangements, however, in light of the Government's insistence that new shareholders be brought in. The ITC declined to comment yesterday.

Insiders at Granada and Carlton, which inherited the excess shares when they took over the smaller ITV companies LWT and Central, respectively, in 1993, complain that they are between a rock and a hard place. Potential buyers of the shares. which include other ITV companies such as Yorkshire-Tyne Tees and MAI, are offering low prices in light of the looming deadline. Granada and Carlton believe the shares should not be sold at a huge discount.

Ward Thomas, the YTT chairman, yesterday added to the pressure on the companies, saying that the ITC ought not to accept arrangements that led to Granada and Carlton keeping ex-tra shares: "The Government made it clear they wanted the companies to adhere to the spir-it as well as the letter of the law."

# Price rises signal thaw in newspaper 'cold war'

Sir David English: Embroiled in Scottish price campaign

### weekend, as the Daily Mail unveiled hikes both south and north of the border and the Guardian increased its Saturday price to 60p from 50p, writes

agreement will also involve Forte's Travelodge hotels busi-ness. The Wheeler's Restaurant

chain, comprises six sites, will be sold off by Forte separately.

If successful, the deal would

top Whitbread's earlier pur-

chases of 16 Marriott hotels and

the £200m David Lloyd Leisure

group, and make up for the

company's defeat at the hands

of Scottish & Newcastle, which paid £450m for Courage, the

Australian-owned brewers, in a bitter bid struggle in May.

It would also confirm the negotiating skills and quick response of Peter Jarvis, Whit-

bread's chief executive, who

has spearheaded the company's

expansion in the leisure and

Forte is expected to give a

binding commitment to complete the deal, which is condi-

ional on the Granada offer for

Forte lapsing. Since the bid from Granada

was tabled last month, Forte

chairman Sir Rocco Forte has al-ready sold US Travelodge for £11-m. Lillywhites for £28.5m

and Griersons for £23m, and an-

nounced his intention to dispose

of the group's controversial stake

in the Savoy Group of hotels,

A deal with Whithread will

increase the potential proceeds

of the latest disposal pro-

gramme to around £1.4bn, and

which could be worth £220m.

catering markets.

indication of the damage down intense pricing competition.

on Saturday and to 25p from 20p in the week. The Guardian's decision to

raise Saturday prices reflected a growing industry consensus Industry analysts said the prepared to view the Saturday thaw in the "cold war" among newspaper publishers was an The Scottish market has seen on Sunday.

intense price competition, with English's Associated Newspa-

rises to 40p from 35p, while the sorder, Sir David believes prices Scottish Mail increases 5p to 30p could be kept higher without jeopardising circulation.

News International's flagship tabloid, the Sun, has been selling for 25p, but has occasionally been discounted to just that readers are altering their
weekend reading habits, and are
that readers are altering their
10p for a single day. Anyone
buying the Saturday issue of the Sun in Scotland can get the

According to Scottish pubthe Mail, published by Sir David lishing executives, the market north of the border has been From Christmas Eve, the pers selling until this week at only viewed as quite distinct by na-Daily Mail's Saturday edition 20p in the week. South of the tional publishers, and priceviewed as quite distinct by na-

cutting has been used by most by between 40 and 50 per cent titles to gain market share. by between 40 and 50 per cent for most publishers since the be-Even those titles which have held out, such as the Daily Record, have used expensive promotional campaigns. The Daily Record is published by the

Mirror Group, which owns 43 per cent of the *Independent*. Kevin Beattie, managing director of the Daily Record and Sunday Mail, said: "Price has certainly been used to generate sales in Scotland. But with newsprint costs increasing, pub-

lishers have had to reconsider." Newsprint prices have risen

for most publishers since the beginning of 1995, and a further hike of perhaps 10 per cent is expected in January. However, publishers report a

tight market.

cover-price war might be ending came last month, when News International, Rupert Murdoch's UK publisher, raised the price of the Times to 30p from 25p.

One senior newspaper executive said: "That was proof that even Murdoch is not immune to effects of higher newsprint ers expect Mr Murdoch, who willingness among newsprint launched the price war in the sum-suppliers to agree contracts of mer of 1993, to return to pricemore than six months - a sign, cutting in 1996. The war has led they say, of improvement in the cutting in 1996. The war has led newspapers, including those in Mr Murdoch's stable. But his success in increasing the circulation of the Times to more than 600,000 proved to many in the industry that newspaper buyers were, after all, sensitive to price.

# World markets set for a year of optimism

gists were gloomy about the prospects for world stock and cheered up enormously by the course of subsequent events. Could 1996 be the year in which the reverse happens?

There is certainly a high degree of agreement - a suspicious sign to some - that the general economic and financial environment is benign. Inflation has been conquered. Growth in the industrial world has slowed to a sustainable pace and, if it is currently a bit too weak, is likely to pick up again in 1996. In fact, the financial markets

are betting heavily that they will get the best of all possible worlds. Dealers expect that, thanks to the slowdown and disinflation, interest rates will fall again in Europe and the US. In Japan, where rates are at historic lows, the central bank will continue to inject liquidity into the banking system.

Most experts would see the biggest risk as even slower growth or outright recession. Giles Keating at CS First Boston says: "The US slowdown rope looks extremely weak. We have got to see more in the way of interest rate cuts." Michael Hughes, head of ... but will early hopes for stable growth in the US and Europe be dashed by inflation or recession? Diane Coyle reports

the world economy will begin to react to the past and future interest rate reductions. "[The year] 1995 was [when] govern-ments woke up to the defla-tionary tendencies," he says. "In 1996 we should expect the response. He adds: "My emphasis is on growth."

The task for investors is pinpointing where the best growth will occur. Mr Hughes figures that corporate investment will at last expand, that commodities will benefit from renewed growth, and that the Asian consumer boom will continue.

If this scenario turns out to be too optimistic, it will not necessarily alarm bond investors, al-though recession would threaten share prices through its impact on corporate profits. However, some analysts take a more apocalyptic view about the risks arising from a downturn in the world economy.

John Lipsky, chief economist at Salomon Brothers in New York, argues that recession would put the consensus on market-friendly economic policies at risk. Most governments

strategy at BZW, believes that agree that they need to cut budget deficits, bring interest rates down, and continue to deregu-

late their economies. Longer-term problems such as the scale of unfunded state pension liabilities in any countries will keep up the pressure to reduce current budget deficits. For example, these li-

### Few analysts say progress towards EMU will be smooth

abilities range from 43 per cent of GDP in the US to an awesome 233 per cent in Italy and 250 per cent in Canada. But if a slowdown in the near term started to make voters disgruntled, policy-makers might be tempted to reflate.

Stephen Roach, New York economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley, puts it in more apocalyptic terms. Policy aus-

terity could cause a backlash, he reckons. "Look no further than the streets of France for a prototype of how this response might play out elsewhere in the industrial world."
A subsidiary and widespread

fear is that the Maastricht process of deficit reduction will bring more currency turmoil in Europe. Few analysts have any confidence that progress towards the single currency will be smooth in the run-up to next year's inter-governmental con-ference. "If there is any sort of negative surprise on growth in Europe, policy could easily become destabilising," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist at Paribas.

However, if the worst fears of the financial market prove unfounded, the chances are that governments will continue with their current policies of tighter fiscal policy and cautious re-laxation of monetary policy. The growth of corporate earnings in the US and Europe is likely to be lower in 1996, but a continued rally in the bond market should keep share prices on the increase.

Wall Street has been taking a lead in reacting to bonds. Apart from the surge in technology stocks, it is the fall in the benchmark long-term Treasury bond yield to its current level of just under 6.1 per cent - the lowest in nearly two years - that has driven the rise and rise of the Dow Jones index.

Mark Brown, chief equity strategist at Hoare Govett, said: Wall Street is extremely vulnerable to any correction in bonds." Other guides - the p/e ratio, the dividend yield and cash flow - currently give mixed signals, he argues.

The 100-point fall in the Dow on the Monday before Christmas, in the biggest oneday drop for more than four years, was a dramatic illustration of that vulnerability. With the same link to bond performance holding for other world stockmarkets, they followed the Wall Street lead.

Pessimists about inflation are few and far between at the moment. However, any inflation news that is worse than expected could reduce the room for further interest rate cuts. As these have been priced into bond yields, a change of heart in the markets part-way through the coming year would certainly bring high drama.

# Halifax paints rosy gloss on house prospects

# NIC CICUTII

The housing market is set to stage a mild recovery next year, boosted by Government tax cuts and continuing falls in interest rates, the Halifax Build-

ing Society predicted yesterday.
House prices will go up by
about 2 per cent, with further increases of 5 per cent in each of the following years. Sales should also rise by about 10 per cent, recovering from the sharp drop suffered in 1995.

The picture could be even rosier, with the prospect of a mini-boom taking place in two years' time, the Halifax report laimed. "We believe the worst is now over and the real recov-

ery is about to begin," it said. The society's prediction fol-lows a dismal year for the housing market, in which both prices and sales collapsed to new lows. In October, the amount lent by societies - £295m - fell to its lowest level since the Conservatives took office in 1979.

Sales, which help lubricate the market, also fell dramatically, reaching levels not seen since the start of the latest housing recession in 1992-93. Meanwhile, the number of mortgages greater than the val-ue of their homes - negative eq-uity - rose to 1.5 million. Hopes of a revival, first touted in 1994, came to nought as the market slid into a double-dip recession. lid into a double-dip recession. this - a one-off correction Halifax's report yesterday following years of weakness."

admitted that earlier forecasts of a recovery in 1995 were wrong. It said: "The second downturn was not expected but the reasons are now clear. First, there was a reduction in Govemment help for homeowners.
"We continued to see the

withdrawal of subsidies with the further reduction of mortgage tax relief to 15 per cent and the announcement in the 1994 Budget of cutbacks in income support for

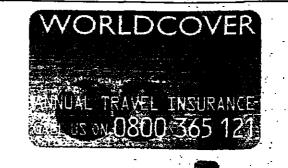
mortgage interest payments.
"Secondly, despite interest rates falling to historically low 4: levels in nominal terms, inflation, and in particular house price inflation, also fell, leaving rates high in real terms. In addition, most people did not expect interest rates to remain low in nominal terms.

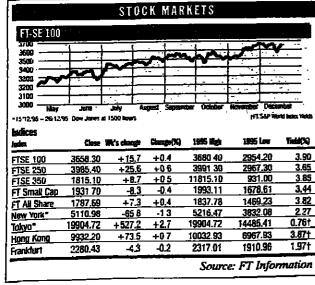
"As late as early 1995, expectations in the City were for base rates to rise backwards towards 10 per cent. There can be little doubt that these worries

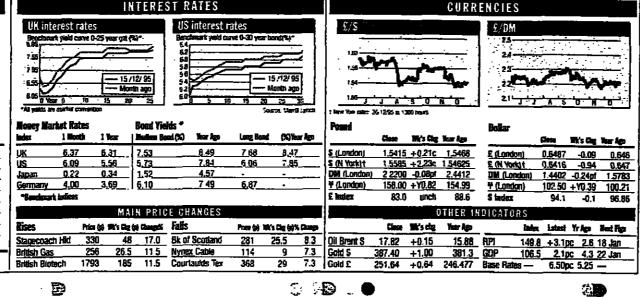
were also felt by borrowers."
Continuing low consumer confidence, job insecurity and tax increase added to the mis-

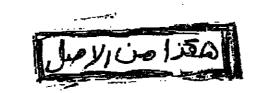
ery, the report added.

However, most of these factors are now being turned round, opening the way for a minor revival, which it hoped the Government would not move to choke off. We hope the Government would see no particular wider problems with









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# Reaping the benefits of the technological revolution

Joseph Schumpeter, the great Austrian economist, wrote the following in 1942.

Queen Elizabeth [I] owned silk special Europeen [1] owned suk specialist. The capitalist achievement does not typically consist in providing more silk stockings for queens, but in bringing them within the reach of factory girls in return for steadily decreasing amounts of effort.

Since then technological progress has continued to erode privilege. The Green Revolution has belied to bring to tens of millions in Asia and elsewhere the food security previously familiar only in wealthy nations. More prosaically, the multimedia PCs being snapped up by middle class families this Christmas offer computing power comparable to that used by rocket scientists

three decades ago. Schrampeter's vision brilliantly de-scribes how the long sweep of captaints development reduces in-captainty eventually. Yet when in-advantages for appear, they can make libraries for poorer people, sometimes for decades. Some three commits ago, the development of large years copy to feed livestock igh yield crops to feed hyestock gred the way for massive in-reases a agricultural output, and the led to the population boom that accompanied the industrial revo-lation. Citimately, this led to an in-crease in living standards beyond

The best way to guard against the effects of change is to be more radical, argues Giles Keating

impact was misery, as peasants could no longer graze their own animals on common or fallow land. Naturally, such changes are bitterly

We are all aware that we are in the midst of a new, informationbased technological revolution. However, the most important aspect of this upheaval will probably turn out to be the revolution in the nature of pricing itself. It is becom-ing possible to charge for tiny

Electronic tolls strike at the root of congestion on the roads

increments of things, such as the use of each hundred metres of congested inner-city road, and to vary that pricing in almost any way, for example charging people more for electricity during the Cup Final. Developments like this clearly

have their drawbacks. They are complicated and they may be in-trusive, and like other technologi-

also offer enormous advantages, in-cluding the ability to make polluters pay. In the long run, this pricing rev-olution will almost certainly make everyone much better off. As with Schumpeter's example of the stock-ings, poorer people should ultimately gain most.

Consider a specific case. When

you buy a taxi ride, you get a bundle of services: privacy, door-to-door travel; choice as to when to travel. It is expensive compared to a bus journey, which is a basic ride without these three features. But the information revolution offers the opportunity for all three to be unbundled and sold individually. Pensioners might want door-to-door travel without wanting to pay for privacy or choice of time. Parents with small children might need door-to-door transit at a specified time, but be happy to share. A young person running a small busi-ness might need privacy at a precise time but be prepared to walk the last 500 yards. Their respective needs could easily be communi-cated in real time to minibus and taxi drivers, who would respond just as computer-operated taxis do at present. The current rigid distinction between bus and taxi would disappear. There would be fewer

er than current bus fares, even as the service improves. Consider a second case, that of

automated money. This is now part of everyday life for many people, in the form of credit and deb-it cards, or as a direct debit from the bank account to pay the electricity bill. It brings numerous advantages, including security and convenience and, in the case of utility bills, often a lower tariff. Yet large numbers of people are ex-cluded from these advantages – poorer people, the homeless, many people receiving social security

Meanwhile, the Government has a project under way to start paying welfare benefits via smartcards. There has been little public debate about this plan, the main aims of which are apparently to cut fraud and costs. These objectives are admirable but limited. Ideally, the welfare smartcard would be completely compatible with the cards already in use, allowing benefit recipients all the advantages of plastic money, including the ability to use cash machines. Even better, there would be a facility to create a kind of direct debit charged against the foture flow of benefits, which would crease in living standards beyond cal changes, they lead to a buses and taxis driving around with offer the electricity and gas committee of the committee of t

Very little information about this strartcard plan is available, so we do not know if it will meet these broader objectives. If it does not, then an excellent opportunity to spread the benefits of technology will have been missed, and the whole project may come under political attack as being too intrusive, putting at risk even the limited objectives of reducing costs and

which would make road users pay the full cost of the congestion and pollution they cause. Putting tolls on virtually every road in the country would be a massive project raising many uncertainties, and politicians have shied away from it, instead suggesting a number of half-baked schemes. These include putting tolls on motorways only - a clear nonstarter because many drivers would use parallel roads - and placing a surcharge on petrol differing by region to fund each area's roads, which completely fails to penalise congestion since it charges urban users much the same as those on lanes in the surrounding countryside. More-over, all these limited schemes impose charges indifferently on poor and rich road users.

By contrast, full-blown electronic

some fares might actually be low- enable them to stop charging the tolls strike at the root of congestion.

charging much higher rates during the rush hour and in the city centre. Wealthier people would be stems from the discouragement of unnecessary journeys. Toll revenues would also provide ample funds to

A third case is electronic road tolls, sition seems to be moving against

prepared to pay the premium rate, while less well off road users would tend to pay much lower charges by travelling off peak or avoiding the centre. Both would gain from the overall reduction in congestion that

# The Government's current approach inflicts short-term

losses on many

lower taxes. Unfortunately, the present Government is still proposing half-baked schemes and the oppo-

the whole idea of road-use tolls. A new political programme is wanted, one that would encourage radical technological innovation but at the same time protect the groups that initially lose signifi-cantly. Very often, it is these people who stand to gain most from the ul- | the investment bank CS First Boston.

the example of the cheap door-to-door transport offered by a differ-ent mix of buses and taxis. Therefore, the best way to protect them may be to make the change faster and more radical. This is surely better than yet more taxes and benefits.

business

Such a political programme is not yet on offer. On one side, the Conservative Government aims for Schumpeterian technical progress by freeing the market. However, the approach is rarely radical enough and so the plans inflict short-term losses on many people and lead to periodic, ad hoc retreats in the face of public outery.

On the other side, we have a Labour opposition that claims to espouse the virtues of technical progress - for example, making its infobahn deal with BT But across broad areas, its instinct seems to be to oppose change, whether in wanting bus re-regulation or opposing the principle of rail privatisation. In both cases. Labour has not really confronted the need to reconcile progress with protecting the potential losers. Let us abandon this sterile debate, accept that we are in an environment of rapid Schumpeterian change, and argue instead about the fastest way to get the ben-efits to those who need it most.

Giles Keating is chief economist at

# Barings man eyes fresh fields

Not too many international financiers would describe the recent emerging markets crash as a heaven sent gift. Especially not when their business is dedicated to emerging market investment banking.

But then, as Christopher Heath, former Barings executive and founder of Caspian, a new banking venture, intoned: "In this world, everything is about timing." And he was, as he freely admits, damned lucky in this respect. He had been and failed is testimony to Mr touring acound the world's capitals since 1993 for backing for a new emerging markets in- Forty per cent comes from himvestment bank. But he only self and other wealthy individpulled it off in 1995. "The gods have been looking down on us of international pension funds. favourably, if we had been sit. Caspian intends to raise a ting on the wrong side of a funder £100m next year out of crash, it would not have been a an expected total financial good start," he said. The costs requirement of £250m. of entry are now much lower, there are not the expectations. City lore to Barings, where he of booming markets. The whole founded and built up its sucto building up a business than focussed on the Far East. At the

business; and asset manage-Mr Heath hopes, it will be the ed with a string of beautiful, works's leading investment bank young women. for emerging markets, centred But he earned his success, on London, New York and transforming Barings from a Hong Kong, But for tax reasons, traditional merchant bank into the business is based in Lux- a full-throated investment embourg and Mr Heath himself house with a buccaneering

ax pall

prospe

Newly launched investment bank is targeting the fast-growing economies of the Third World

controlled from any one financial centre".

It may have been a hard slog convincing investors to back his new banking venture, but his success where others have tried Heath's standing in the City, where he has raised £50m. uals, and the rest from a group

. The Heath name is linked in environment is more conducive cessful securities operation one year ago."

Caspian aims to cover the investment banking waterfront:

height of his success in the
1980s, he was reputedly
britain's highest earner, on securities, including-research; £2.5 to £3m. He thrived in fashcapital markets and advisory ionable circles, and in later years was rarely out of the soment. By the turn of the century, ciety gossip columns, associat-

expects next year to move to the US, to "avoid the impression that this offshore business is early 1990s, after delivering a stand the businesses under-neath them. Had they done so, the disaster would not have

happened."

at an instant."

If a fair whack of the initial

capital raised for Caspian has

gone towards hiring big names

such as Paul Zuckerman, for-

mer vice-chairman of S G War-

burg, and a string of Barings

heavyweights, then much more

has been spent on information

technology. "When I started Barings Securities it was not

possible to have seamless global technology, an overall system where everything is interac-tive, offering complete, instant

access to all the centres. It

ger players don't look at."

rest in London and a few dot-

string of enviable profits, the securities operation dipped into loss. In the wake of Barings spectacular crash early this year at the hands of an unscrupulous trader in Singapore, the comparatively

### THE WEEKLY INTERVIEW

CHRISTOPHER HEATH

free-wheeling style of the securities business originally built up by Heath came under closer scrutiny. But in the end, any such considerations paled into insignificance next to the complete absence of proper management controls at Barings.

That, says Mr Heath, would never have been possible during his time at Barings, and will not happen at Caspian. "Caspian has hired experts in their field, managers who completely understand what they are running. At the end of the day, the people on risk control at Barings evidently did not under- ted about Latin America. The

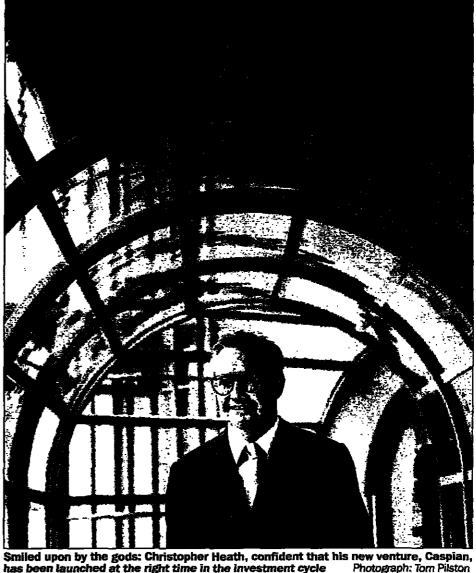
priority for the early part of 1996 is building up the Far East operations, as well as getting started in Eastern Europe.

Among the prestigious names are Robert McNamara, the now 78 year-old former US defence secretary, head of Ford and of the World Bank. Rupert Pennant-Rea, with time on his hands since an indiscretion in his love life lost him his job as deputy head of the Bank of England, is a two-day a week

Powering Caspian to suc-cess, Mr Heath argues, will be strong economic growth in the developing world - 7 per cent plus for South-east Asia and 5 per cent for Latin America – along with the region's high sav-ings rate compared to those in mature market economies. But the miserable per-

means risk management is [now] available across the globe formance of the main emerging markets over the past year, no-Some would say markets like uation at the end of 1994, offers South-east Asia and Latin American are over broked, But a sombre counterpoint to such Caspian, argues Mr Heath, is enthusiasm. The big US funds already finding its space because it is different, indeed unique. He that rule the world, having poured money into emerging markets, spent much of 1995 added: "Our focus is going to be on some of the smaller to taking it back home.

All the same, Mr Heath medium-sized transactions the \$30 to \$100m that the bigconfidently believes time and trends are working his way. So far most of Caspian's 100 "And I tell people investing in pioneers are in New York, our business, they are doing it at the right time, in the downwhere the global sectoral research team is based, with the turn of the cycle."



has been launched at the right time in the investment cycle

**APPOINTMENTS** • Legal

# Shadow of the mafia keeps the Dark Ages in view

Russian parliamentary elec-tions, an unusual image began cropping up on billboards around Moscow. It showed a grim-faced Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, holding his hands in the shape of an inverted "V" - like a roof. His overt message was that

his pro-government party, "Our Home Is Russia", would provide people with a sense of safety and stability. The world will probably never know whether he intended Muscovites to detect another rather more sinister undertone, but many will have done so.

For them, the sign was an emblem of the krysha system, the make practice of extorting money from businesses by foreing them to accept their offer to provide security, and then gradually awallowing them into a criminal empire. Krysha is

Such a conclusion was hardly surprising, given the facts. According to the Moscow Times, the Government found that all retail stores, restaurants, cafés, kiosks, and car intporters along with 70-80 per cent of banks and privatised enterprises were making payments to criminal gangs. Some of the gangsters are even said to insist on installing their own accountants within the companies upon which they preyjust to make sure that no potential physics is being hidden

from their greedy gaze. You would have to be living in a dream world to spend any time in Muscow without being aware of the matter-or, at least, their minions. Open any Russian newspaper and there's a

# **VIEW FROM MOSCOW**

the assassination of yet anoth- consultancy, said that Moscow er executive, usually with a bulket through the head - the standard punishment for not paying the krysha fees. So regular are contract murders (which can be commissioned for as little as a few thousand dollars) that they no longer make the headlines. Walk into any of the sleazier

bars or casinos here, and you may well be accosted by one of the mails's cauliflower-eared cohorts, although it's easy to confuse them with the growing army of security guards -some 800,000 - that have cropped up around the country. I was sit-

good chance you'll read about Resources, a Geneva-based had jumped from eighth to

emerged from the parliamen-

It will take more than a bowl of congealed grease to scare hungry

closed, presumably to allow them to carry on drinking and playing cards undisturbed by clients. No one dared protest, least of all the cafe's staff.

And stroll into any modern guards), and you'll notice that

third in the league table of the world's most expensive cities for foreign workers, and was only outpriced by Tokyo and Osaka. The survey used New York as a base of 100; Moscow scored 142. which embraces a diverse world of criminals which is as

though, is that it is a significant deterrent from doing business There are plenty of others: despite Mr Chernomyrdin's promises, the Communists

entrepreneurs from making fortunes

ting in a case not long ago.
when four such louts abruptly decided to announce that it was party, spawning speculation that they will win next June's presidential contest. If this happens – the pessimists warn – they will renationalise private enterprises and spend so much. money fulfilling their welfare commitments that inflation

supermarket (past the armed will run amok. Yet there are also some positive points that should not be overlooked. Despite the the prices for most consumer goods are sky high - a reflec-tion, at least in part, of the payheavy costs of the war in Chechnya, the economy has offs that retailers must make to earry on trading. A survey pub-lished last week by Corporate least for now, the Russians thugs.

dor. Some economists even forecast that Russia will go into growth in 1996. And, in practical terms, working in Moscow is becoming easier by the day (al-though life outside the big cities remains lost in the Dark Ages). Computer communications in the capital

The mafia is a loose term, are improving, although the Russian lines tend to be erfoggy as it is foul. What is clear, ratic and slow, and often cut More and more people are

on-line; the ability to receive e-mail no longer makes much of a dinner party vaunt. Entertaining clients is more of a problem. New Western restaurants have been popping up around the city like mushrooms but one often wells come from them with a

walks away from them with a heavy heart and a light wallet. A half-decent meal at a halfdecent Chinese, for instance, is likely to set your company back by more than \$120 (£80). My search for a good Russian eating establishment near the office has so far proved to

be an odyssey of the odious, a

series of utter disasters fea-

turing dishes that would make the average road kill look appetising.
But, for the truly hungry entrepreneurs, this won't matter. It will take more than a bowl of congealed grease to scare them away from a country where there are still for-

tunes to be made by anyone

brave enough to face down the

City £Neg Up to 4 years p.q.e. in mercial property for well educated solicitor with xcellent inter personal skills inflation. The rouble has sta-OFFICE ADMIN JUNIOR bilised, thanks to the Yeltsin administration's policy of maintaining it within a corri-

City Sols Up to £12.51 Bright individual pref. with experience in law firm for general admin doties. Delivering internal/external mail and does to Court. keen and prepared to give

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# TIME FOR A CHANGE

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JUNIOR TAX Leading international law firm with an excellent reputation in this field now seeks a 0-2 years' poe cax lawyer with strong technical ability with impeccable training and academic background. Exceptional opportunity for junior lawyer with genuine enthusiasm in tax law. Rest D14136

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top City or Central London practices. Work includes
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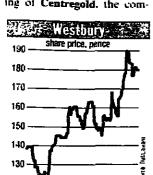
For further information, in complete confidence, please contact jonathan Marsden, William Cock or Debarah Dalgietsh (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-226 4292evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Daugati Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Raw, London WCIR 4ft. Confidental fac



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### **TODAY**

Companies No interims or finals are schoduled for the day, squeezed between the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Intrepid shareholders may want to venture out to the annual general meeting of Centregold, the com-



puter peripherals and software company. Meanwhile, Westbury, the housebuilding company, is holding an extraordinary general meeting to ask shareholders to approve a £322m rights issue, intended to help finance the company's acquisition of Clarke Homes. formerly a division of BICC, in early December.

Annual meeting: Centregold. EGM: Westbury.

As befits one of the quietest weeks of the year for business and financial news, there are no UK economic statistics scheduled for release. The West German consumer price index for December is expect-

# THE WEEK AHEAD

over the latest 12 months to minus 0.8 per cent - more benefits from that cast-iron currency the Germans are so reluctant to swap for Euros. Across the Rhine, the French will publish household consumption figures for November, which are set to show a fall of 0.7 per cent year-on-year, showing how low economic confidence was even before the anti-austerity programme strikes began to disrupt the French economy in the last week of November.

### **TOMORROW**

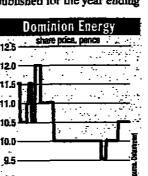
due from BBB Design Group and Stanelco. BBB Design, which operates in design and computer-related services, is planning to move from the unlisted securities market to the main exchange. Stanelco, another tiny company, makes thermal processing equipment. British Building and Engineering, which provides services to the construction egy with him before cutting industry, unveils its final results base rates a quarter point two today. Last year, it showed loss-es, in part due to accounting irweeks ago. regularities at a subsidiary.

tween the major seasonal holidays. However, minutes of the monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England held on 1 November will be published. These should throw light on just how hard the Governor was digging in his heels and whether the Chancellor shared the budget strat-

# FRIDAY

Companies

winding up of the unlisted securities market, the group has said it would be seeking a list-ing on the main exchange - but only after its final figures are published for the year ending



small companies - including Associated-Henriques, Black & Edgington, The Brockbank Group, Butte Mining, Conrad and Dominion Energy - hold their annual general meetings, before everyone goes off again on holiday. Dominion said on 7 December that the financial statements for the year would not be sent out 21 days before today's AGM, but would be placed before shareholders at an extraordinary meeting to be

held before the end of January 1996. Interims: Union Square. Annual meetings: Associated-Henriques, Black & Edgington, The Brockbank Group, Butte Mining, Conrad and Dominion

March 1996. A handful of ment's economic trends for December are released today.

### **NEXT TUESDAY**

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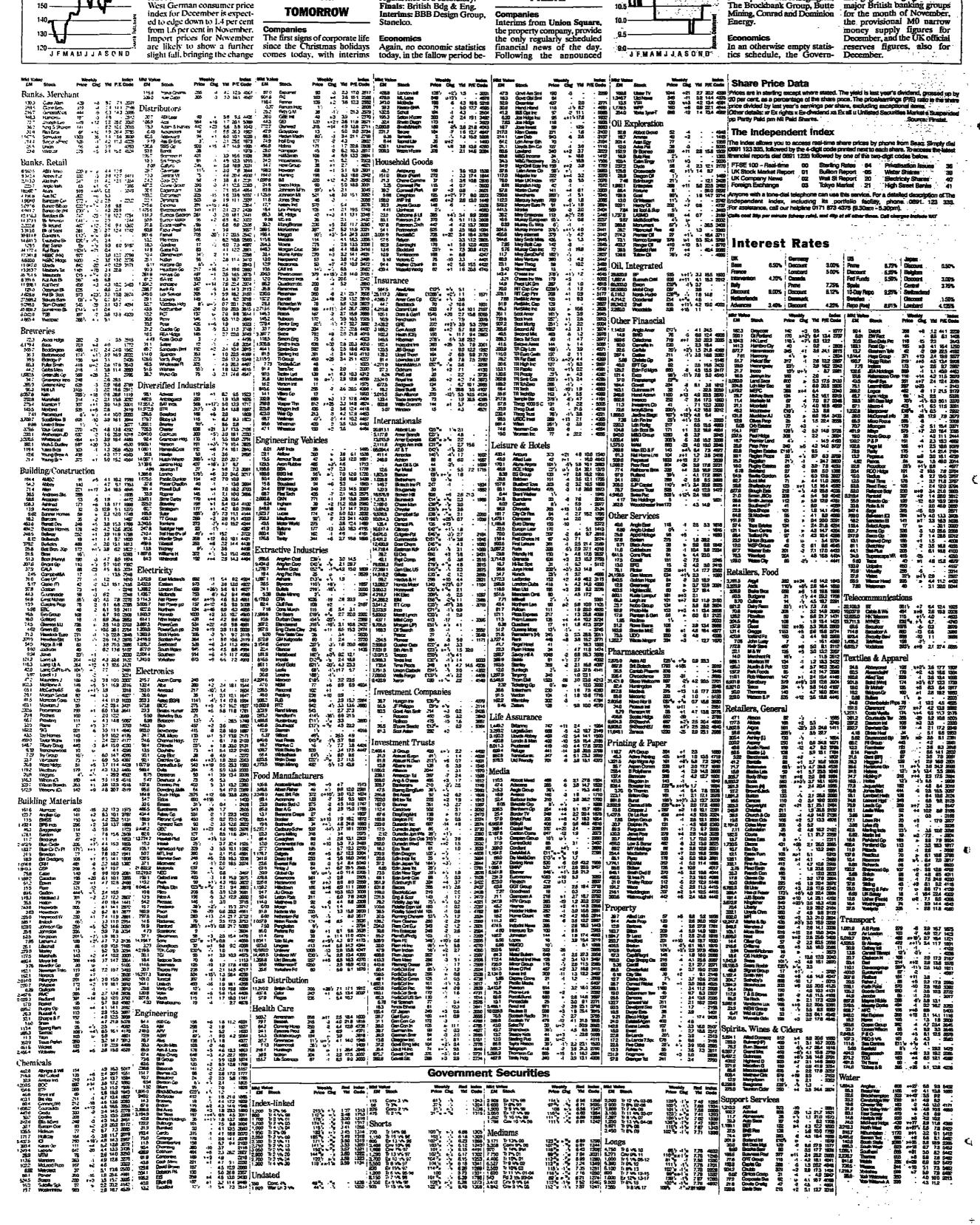
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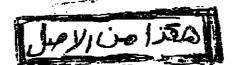
Language Committee Committee 474

No financial news scheduled, but today is day 39 of the Granada bid for Forte, after which no fresh financial infor-mation can be published under Takeover Panel rules.

Today brings a few interesting statistics, both from the Government and the private

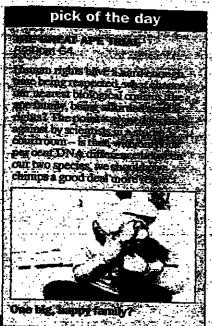
Chief among them are the mortgage lending figures from major British banking groups for the month of November, the provisional M0 narrow money supply figures for December, and the UK official







# today's television & radio



oxing Night was, for no apparent reason, medieval mystery night. On BBC2, Colin Firth swapped Darcy's jodhpurs for a smock and a fancy cod-piece to do battle for truth, justice and porcine rights in 14th-century France in The Hour of the Pig (BBC2). Meanwhile, a alrge part of the ITV schedules was consumed by a feature length version of Cadjael, the adventures of Derek Jacobi's 12th century monk with the 20th-century forensic skills. The kind of night, you might think, when charades seem like a good idea.

The Hour of the Pig, though, proved more than diverting fare, if only for an opening sequence which gave new meaning to the phrase "hung like a donkey". A tragic ass stood on the gallows, a noose around its neck, next to a similarly doomed man, the pair charged with enjoying intimacy. At the last minute, a monk (possibly from Cadinel's abbey) pushes his way through the wood shed - there was something familiarly crowd of execution groupies to hand the hangman a piece of paper. "Since the per-



### review Jim White

character". As the ass is led away, the sad bugger next to her swings, to much applanse from the audience: a response, you couldn't help feeling, which was thoroughly modern in its misplaced sentimentality.

Indeed, the bizarre nature of the plotline notwithstanding - Firth, a city slicker unused to bumpkin ways, was a lawyer required to defend a pig on a murder rap; the pig is innocent (nobody with dimples that cute could be a killer) and our hero up-to-date about the whole film.

Not the scabs, certainly, or the bad denconsent," the hangman reads, "she is to be realised medievalness. These were nothing released forthwith without a stain on her more than set-dressing (or rather in everything from herbal remedies to eyelashes.

14th century was a sort of sexual theme couple of hundred years ahead of his time. park, with everyone willing to climb aboard If not 800 years. at the slightest pretext. Sophie Dix as a serving wench will have had Darcyettes across and chin?" he said, conducting an autopsy the nation weeping in envy at the sight of their man, naked, lasciviously signing his part in Cracker. "It suggests she died by autograph on her buttocks).

Fundamentally, this was a production which told us less about France in the Dark Ages than it did about our modern condition. It was, in essence, a courtroom drama - In the Name of the Father, perhaps - popped into the Tardis and taken back to a time when they wore absurd costume in court (well, marginally more absurd than they do these days).

"In a world where nothing is reasonable," said Ian Holm, sex-mad monk, to monk confronts the villain with a sack-load explain the pig's trial, "nothing can be truly mad." Much the same obtains these days in the modern world of television

If Firth was the medieval Perry Mason, son of the she-ass was violated without her tistry-or the other moments of carefully Derek Jacobi's Cadfael is the Middle-Ages' Morse. Or rather, with his expertise donkey for nothing more than fluttering her

undressing. If this was to be believed, the weather forecasting, a renaissance man a

"See this discolouration round her lips suffocation."

Cadfael (ITV) didn't even make The Hour Of The Pig's admiral stab at disguising its modern concerns under a blanket of authenticity. Its protagonists had capped teeth, the monks kept their habits on and everyone spoke in the kind of sub-Shakespearian cadences that pass as medieval talk in bad screenplays ("I trust I find thee in good health, my liege"). And you just couldn't help thinking that when Superof carefully garnered evidence, all effort at understanding the past had simply been abandoned.

"You can prove none of this," the bad guy yells. As if proof mattered in the days when men were men and they'd try a

### film of the day

LEON THE PIG FARMER 11pm C4

Pigs in the movies – now there's a thesis for some media studies student hard up for an idea. The present cycle -currently continuing with Babe and The Hour of the Pig (left) - was kicked off by Vadim Jean and Gary Sinyor's no-budget charmer in which Jewish estate agent Mark Frankel discovers his biological father was a Yorkshire nie farmer.



News, Local News, Weather (4756485). Children's BBC: Christmas Specials (2372843). 7.35 Favourite Songs (7296843). News, Local News, Weather (4016379). Children's BBC: Joe 90 (5831466). 8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (7094737). News, Local News, Weather (5177008). Children's BBC: Global Gatecrash. (8296992). 9.30 Stone Protectors (99379), 10.00 Playdays (1981553), 10.25 William's Wish Wellingtons

(5132089).10.30 Thoroughly Modern Mills (George Roy Hill 1967 US). Julie Andrews as a fortune-hunting 1920s flapper? Never mind, it's got James Fox and an Oscarwinning score by Elmer Bernstein (15711060). \*

12.45 Cartoon (64251669). 12.55 Local News, Weather (12934027). 1.00 News; Weather (48495244). \* 1.10 Neighbours (S) (44070350). \* Cartoon (15069640).

Greatest Party in the World. Never mind the hyperbole, feel the pop in the second half of the programme recorded in Birmingham's NEC earlier this year, featuring East 17, Eternal, Shaggi, Michelle Gayle, D:Ream, Boyzone, MN8 and Ultimate Kaos (S)

3.20 Back to the Future Part II (Robert Zemecks 1989 US). Even more convoluted time-travel grief, with Marty McFly travelling into a future of hover skateboards and Christopher Lloyd stealing the film, again. Flash and furny (S) (19185843). \* 5.05 Blue Peter - the Best Blas. Look back at the year

with the sticky-backed plastic crew (S) (2013669 Neighbours. Lucy, having swiftly "done" alcoholism in a two-week storyline, has a fresh start. If only it was so easy (R) (S) (299927). \*

News; Weather (956911). \* 6.15 Regional news magazines (951466). 6.30 Animal Hospital Down Under – a Christmas Special. That's right, possums (S) (530973).
This is Your Life (S) (523843). \*

Jobs for the Gids. Pauline Quicke and Linda Robson (from Birds of a Feather) organise a ball (S) (8260). \* Hot Shots! (Jim Abrahams 1991 US): Rubbish

spoof of Top Gun. Remarkable solely for Charlie. Sheen's Rambo muscles (S) (3650176). \* 10.25 News, Local News, Weather (91.7398). \*

10.50 Sorry About Last Night. A romantic cornedy written by and starting Alexai Sayle. He and Siobhan' Redmond are two middle-aged people on their first date who go on a daring post-pub trawl through searny London — a sort of thirty-cornelining nightmare.

inspired by Scorses's After Hours (S) (120973).\*

11.40 End Carry on Dick (Peter Rogers 1974 LH). Wherein the team rewrite the history of Dick Turpin. "It is incredible that human minds can put such muck onto

paper," noted Kenneth Williams (837669). \*
1.10 Weather (2419041). To 1.15am.
REGIONS, Wales: 6.15pm Wales Today. 1.10 News;
Weather Scott 6.00pm News. 6.15 Reporting
Scotland, Nit 6.15pm News. 1.10 Local News.

# **BBC 2**

7.15 Modern Times (Charlie Chaplin 1936 US). Chaplin's final stient masterplece: a naive poternic against an increasingly automised society factory, whereby his worker becomes unhinged and meets beautiful orphan Paulette Goddard (1862447). Woman of the Year (George Stevens 1942

US): Gorgeous, lush, almost worth getting out of bed for. Yes, it's the first screen pairing of Hepburn and Tracy. They're journos; they're hot (56810911).

10.30 The Voyages of Charles Darwin. Next stop. Patagonia (R) (26176).

11.30 The Royal Institute Christmas Lectures - Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide. First of this excellent annual series: today Dr James Jackson, a Cambridge

geologist, talks planetary make-up (S) (43783). Celebrity Mantelpiece. The late Kingsley Amis profiled through his knick-knacks (S) (54627114). \* Racing from Chepstow. Racing from Chepstow and Leopardstown. 12.50 (C) Christmas Cracker Handicap Chase. 1.20 (C) Finale Junior Hurdle. 1.55 (C) Coral Welsh National, 2.10 (L) Paddy Power Handicap. 2.30 (C) Festive Spirit Novice Chase (S) (34811008).

A River of Sound. Traditional Insh music explored (S) (8101089). 3.50 Close Up. Teresa Gorman, MP, on Victor/Victoria (S) (9152992).

On a Clear Day You Can See Forever (Vincent Minelfi 1970 US). Heroic furneuse Barbra Streisand tries hypnotherapy, but regresses to a past life. Shrink Yves Montand is intrigued. Silly but fun musical (41663973).

lace and Gromit in the Wrong Trousers. Again, but we can handle it (R) (S) (176). \* Star Treic The Next Generation. The Enterprise – it's frozen in time! (S) (528263). \*

Rocky Star (159466). Sylvie Guillern. Balletomane Sylvie gets American

choreographer William Forsythe to dance a solo piece. Then Movement, a film by French director Francoise Ha Van (S) (640). 8.00 The Abbey with Alan Bennett, The final cut (S)

(370089). \* Another Foot in the Past. A 1920s suburban semi (R) (S) (418176).

9.00 The Likely Lads. In which Bob and Theima are Intent (R) (394195). \* 9.45 Heidi Fleiss - Hollywood Madam. Nick Broomfield

goes in search of the notorious star-satisfier (S) (231621). \* 11.30 A Great Day in Harlem. Fabulous jazzumentary, narrated by Quincy Jones, telling the story of Art

Kane's famous 1958 photograph of the 57 greatest living jazzers hanging in Harlem. Plus archive footage of such geniuses as Dizzy, Blakey and Rollins. Absolute bliss (11398). \* 12.30 Mo' Better Blues (Spike Lee 1990 US). Denzel Washington plays a self-destructive trumpeter in this

confused but stylish hommage. Great soundtrack (19461). 2.30 Weatherview (5128374). To 2.40am.

# **ITV/London**

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.05 Special Feature. 7.00 News. 7.30 Barney, 8.00 Galaxy High. 8.30 Starla and the Jewel Riders. 8.55 Power Rangers (8114176).

9.25 He-Man (R) (8201824). 9.50 Batman (S) (1882602). 10.20 News, Local News (9413927). \*

10.30 The Story Lady (Larry Elikann 1990 US). Jessica Tandy is a sprightly pensioner beginning a new career as a telly presenter. Better consumed as a character study than a satire on TV (S) (63000805).

12.10 Cartoon (R) (3802824). 12.20 Local News, Weather (8152089). \* 12.30 News & Weather (2910027). \*

12.55 Christmas in Coronation Street (R) (8800176). \* 2.00 Stuntmasters (4066911).

2.55 Cartoon (R) (3724669). 3.05 News (8605244). \*

3.10 Local News, Weather (8620553). \*
3.15 IRE Flash Gordon (Mike Hodges 1980 UK), All together now: "Flash! Ash-sah!". Splendid filmic comic, with Max Von Sydow as Ming, and Queen on yer speakers (S) (32236992). \* 5.10 After 5 (2007008). \*

5.40 News, Weather (308379). \* 5.55 Your Shout. Aagh (221737).

6.00 Home and Away Special. "Shane and Angel - a Love Story" (602). \* 6.30 London Tonight (282). \*

7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Take your pick - a car or £20,000 in cash (S) (1783). 7.30 Coronation Street. The tedious missing gnome storyline comes to a conclusion. Coronation Street can write better comedy without resorting to these

sitcomesque hijlnks (466). \* 8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. With Frank Bruno and Shirley Bassey (S) (5756).

9.00 Circles of Deceit. "Dark Secret". Dennis Waterman plus beard, aka ex-SAS man John Neil, uncovers a conspiracy which leads (natch) all the way back to Nazi Germany. Corine Redgrave and Kate Buffery lend classy support to standard-issue thrills (S) (8843). \*

11.00 News & Weather (126485). \* 11.15 Local News, Weather (497485). \*

11.25 The China Syndrome (James Bridges 1979 US). Seriously good nuclear scare-thrilier, written by Michael Crichton and starring Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon and a tolerable Michael Douglas. Fonda and Douglas are those prototype 1970s, post-Watergate heroes, investigative journalists, uncovering neglected safety standards at a Three Mile Island-style nuclear plant (67226060). \*

1.40 Endsleigh League Extra (3601503). 2.25 EEE Passion Flower (Joseph Sargent 1986 US). Bruce Boxleitner in romantic Far East action

Off Beat (Michael Dinner 1986 US). Librarian Judge Rheinhold pretends to be a policeman (3205003). 5.40 Profile, Emmylou Harris (S) (4864041).

5.55 ITN News (1466799). To 6.00am.

# **Channel 4**

6.40 Ulysses 31 (R) (1646282). 7.05 The Adventures of T-Rex. Not the band (R)

(2340244). 7.30 Little Dracula (R) (29911).
8.00 The Big Breakfast, Gladiators Raider and Trojan,
EastEnder-turned-popster Sean Maguire, and

Squeeze top the bill (50599). 10.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (5486963). 10.25 Babylon 5. It's Christmas in space, too, you know (R)

(S) (3098621). \* 11.20 California Dreams (R) (S) (8171783). 11.45 Biker Mice from Mars (S) (2178992). 12.10 The Super Mario Bros (R) (3800466).

12.20 Dennis (8143331). 12.30 Racing. The second day at Kempton Park. 12.40 Bonusprint Juvenile Novices' Hurdle (2m); 1.10 Bonusfilm Chase (Amateur Riders) (3m 5f); 1.40 Tripleprint H'cap Chase (2m 4f 110yd); 2.15 Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle (2m); 2.50 Bonuspost

H'cap Chase (3m) (S) (61570640). 3.20 Lonely Planet. Ian Wright feeds sharks and climbs a live volcano in the Pacific basin (R) (S) (6322843). IIII Jason and the Argonauts (Don Chaffey 1963 UK). Todd Armstrong's got a serious yen for a Golden Fleece, but he's got to get past FX-meister Ray Harryhausen's sword-fighting skeletons, malicious Colossus and watery Neptune first. Brilliant

(26202331). \*

6.00 The Crystal Maze (R) (S) (94824). \*
7.00 News, Weather (1843).
7.30 Wild Britain (R) (S) (468). \*

8.00 Brookside. Eddle needs to flog his motor, while Jackie may be about to enter into a Faustian pact (S)

(7263).8.30 The Great Ape Trial. Should apes have the same rights as we do? Yes, some argue, because chimpanzees differ from humans by only one per cent of their DNA. What's more, animal rightists like Peter Singer think that gorillas should have their own country, Gorillastan. Strangely, Singer's not on the panel. Dr Jane Goodali, David Mellor, Baroness Warnock, Cristina Odone and Will Self are, though, and Jon

Snow presents. See Pick of the Day (10909). 10.00 Northern Exposure. Joel has a fantastic dream.

Something he ate? (S) (6621). \* 11.00 III Leon the Pig Farmer (Vadim Jean/Gary Sinyor 1992 UK). Sweet lo-fi British comedy which kicked off the plethora of porcine parables in our cinemas. rish estate agent Mark Frankel discovers his real father is a Yorkshire pig-breeder. See Film of the Day (S) (237008), \*

12.50 回题 The Naked Jungle (Byron Haskin 1953 US). Charlton Heston and mail-order bride Eleanor Parker battle homble red ants, millions of 'em, on their plantation in the jungles of South America (856751). 2.35 Rawhide (7839549).

3.35 Cajun Country (R) (9952225). 4.45 The World of Hammer (R) (54494596). To 5.10am.

# ITV/Regions

ANGUA
6.00 am GMTV (8114176). 9.25 The New Advantures of HeMan (820/1824) 9.50 Batman - the Anamated Series (782/602)
10.20 News (941/3927). 10.30 Filter: The Story Laby
(630/0805). 12.10 pm Warrer Carron (91/6555). 12.15 Vizzaer Cartron (81/64624). 12.20 Angle News (81/52/89). 12.15 Christmas in Corruston Street (880/01/76). 2.00 Sturtjuraster;
(46/69/11). 2.55 Detect Cartron (372/4669). 3.05 News.
(860/5244). 3.15 Filter: Flash Gordon (322/36992). 5.10 Shortland Street (2007/028). 8.00 Home and Auxly Special
(865/447). 7.00 Wheeld of Frontier (1783). 7.30 Companion Street
(8643). 11.25 Filter: The China Syndrome (672/6690).
140am Erdsteigh Largue Edon (360/1903). 2.25 am Filter Stogun
(883)16205). 4.45-6.55 am Filter: Follow the Leader (3149/461)

TYNE TEPS/YORKSHIRE As Landon except 5.10pm Home and Away Special (2007/00°C) 6.30 Blockbusters (282), 4.10-5.55em Film: Dennis (352/003)

atti GMTV (8114176), 9.25 The New Adventures of He 5.00am (SMTV (8114176). 9.25 The New Advertures of Heam (8201824). 9.50 Batman - the Animated Series (1882602). 10.20 News (5151114). 10.30 Films The Storn Lady (63000805). 12.10pm Warner Cartonn (3802824). 12.55 Christmas In Correction Steet (8800176). 2.00 Sturmmasters (40689). 11.2.55 Disme Cartonn (3734669). 3.15 Films Flash Gordon (32236592). 5.10 Shortland Street (2007008). 6.00 Home and Away (585347). 7.00 Wheel of Fortune (1782). 7.30 Coronston Street (456). 8.00 Des O'Connot Tonghi (5756). 9.00 Circles of Deset (8943). 11.25 Films. The Christ Syndrome (672250500). 1.40am Endsleigh League Edita (3507503). (67226060) 1.40am Endsegh League Edra, 13607503) 2.25am Film: Passon Flower (328935), 4.10 Film: Off Bea (3205003), 5.40-5.55am Profile (486-4041).

As London except: 5.10-5.40pm A Country Practice (2007/008)

6.DOwn GMTV (8:14176). 9.25 The New Adventures of He

6,00am GMTV (8114176). 9.25 The New Adventures of Heam (8201824) 9.50 Batman - the Animated Series (1882602). 10.20 News (5151114) 10.30 Fitte: The Stort Lady (63000805) 12.10pm Warner Carrioro (8802824). 12.55 Christmas in Coronation Steel (8800176). 2.00 Stortmasters (4066911). 2.55 Desney Carton (872-559). 3.15 Fitter Fitted Fordon (8203992). 5.10 Home and Away Special (2007078) 6.30 What's My Line? (282) 7.00 Wheel or Fortune (1793). 7.30 Domeston Street (860, 8.00 Des O'Comro Tonget (5756) 9.00 Circles of Decent (84-3), 11.25 Fitter The Chara Syndrams (87295007). 1. 10 The Chara Syndrams (87295007). 1. 10 The Chara Syndrams (87295007). 9.00 Croiss of Decet (86-5), 11.25 Ham: The Charts synormic (67226060), 1.40am: Endsleigh League Eora (360/503) 2.25am: Pline: Shogun (883/6206) 4.45-5.55am: Film: Follow the Leader (3/49-46/).

WESTCOUNTEN
6.00am GMTV (811-176) 9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (8201824), 9.50 Batman - the Anamated Series (1882607), 10.30 Film: The Story Lady (63000905): 12.10gm Warner Carton (3802824), 12.55 Cmptmas in Cartistion Street (8800176), 2.00 Sturtmesters (406991), 2.55 Distrey Cartoon (3724669), 3.15 Film: Flash Gorder, (3236992), 5.10 Home and Away Special (2007099), 6.00 Westcountry Use (602), 6.30 Vices from the Dark (280), 7.00 Wheel of Fortine (1783), 7.30 Compatible Street (-661, 8.00 Des O'Connor Tonght (5756), 9.00 Cricles of Deced (8843), 11.25 Film: The China Syndrome (67226060), 1.40am finding (1889), 6.00 Cricles of Deced (18843), 11.25 Film: The China Syndrome (67226060), 1.40am finding (1889), 6.10am film: Off Beat (3205003), 5.40-5.55am Profile (4864041)

### 2.05 AC ### 2.

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# Radio

Radio 1

197.6-99.200 PM 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 Nicky Campbell 3.00 Dave Peace 7.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 Star Review: Darkman 10.00 The Best of I in the Jungle 12.00 Mark Tonderai 4.00-8.00am Claire

Radio 2

6.00am Roger Royle 7.30 Wale. Up to Woger 9.30 Ker Bruce 11.30 January Young 2.00 Gebbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stemart 5.05 John Dunn's 7,00 Jim Lloyd 8,00 Over the Water 8,30 Mrs Ackeyd Explores Her Roots 9,00 Magge-ger's Horizons 9,30 Carlo Carley's Christmas Cracker 10,30 The Mag tin Kelner Music Show 12.05 Sin McGarry 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3

63.22 Mills His
6.00am On Air, With Penny Gare.
Stravnisky: Pulcinella Suffe.
Dvorak: Symphony No 8 Ia G.
Bach: Flute Sonata in A 1899/
1032). Field: Noctume No 4 in
A. Victoria: Magnificat primitori. Eigan: Serenade in E minor
tori strings. Busoni: Tanzweiter.
9.00 Morang Collection.
10.00 Minsical Encounters.
12.00 Composer of the Week.
Saint-Seens. Benediction Nuptiale in E. Oo 9: Coeli enamant. 60.2-92.44年日

tiale in F. Op 9; Coeff enament (Psalm XVIII); Fantaisie in E flat. 1.00 News; Rescues and Scan-3.00 Midwinter Choice.

3.00 Midwitter Choice.
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from
Westmarker Abbey.
5.00 The Music Machine.
5.15 Febrest Isle Songbook.
5.30 The Light Brigade.
6.30 O Nightingale. A Radio 3 invitation concert given in September at the Royal College of from late Georgian Britain. 7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival Des Knaben Wanderhom: Wer hat dies Liedlein erdscht? Das irdische Leben, Rheinlegend-chen, Wo die Schonen Trompe

ten blasen; Lob des hohen Verstandes: Symphony No 5 in 9.20 The Fortunate Cat. (3/5). 9.30 A Remaissance Christmas. BSC Singers. Rose Consort of Viols/Bo Holten. The BBC Singers and their guest conduc-tor present a selection of sea-sonal music for voices and wiols by some of the best-known Engfish composers of the Remaischoice



Pm Bored (7.20pm R4) is a paradoxically riveting examination of boredom, as pathological condition and as a fact of life we have to cope with That's followed by a compilation of highlights from 25 years of the wholly unboring With Great Pleasure (7,45cm R4); presented by the ever-fascinating John Timpson (left).

William Byrd and Anthony Hol-10.45 The Shellac Show. 11.30-12.30em Voices.

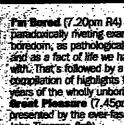
Radio 4 MANUAL ISSUE IN 6.00 cam News. 6.18 caming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Today.
8.46 A Christmas Carol. (3/5).
8.58 Westher.
9.06 (190) Years.
9.05 (190) Test Metch Special.
9.05 (190) Midweek.
10.00 (190) News; A Good Read.
10.00 (190) Deily Service.
10.15 (190) Christmas; BBC Redio.
4.4 Shoet for Christmas; 12/4)

4: A Ghost for Chdstrias. (2/4). 10.30 (FIB) Walters' Festive Prolics. (3/5). 11.00 (LW) Test Match Special 11.00 (FRE) News; Trying to Con-nect You. (2/2).

11.30 (RM) At Bertram's Hotel: By Agetha Christie. (3/5): 12.00 (RM) News; Introduce Riots. (3/5). 12.25 (FM) Babblewick Hall. By Scott Cherry, (1/6). 1,00 The World at One. (FM only from 1.30)

1.30 (LW) Test Match Special. 1.40 (FM)The Archers. 1.55 Shipping. 2.00 (Filit) News; Box of Delights. By John Massfield. (2/2). 2.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 3.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope: Miller's Tales, 1940-1956. The celebrated American playwright talks to Christopher Blasby about writing Death of a Salesmen, overcoming the McCarthy ist hysteria and his first encounter with Marilyn Monroe

4.00 News 4:05 Radio Lives. 4,45 Christmas Short Story: Not So Tiny Tim, or God Bless Us, Everyone: By John Mortimer.



5.00 PM. 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Kit and the Widow's Sound of Music. The cabaret duo host another round of the wide-ranging music quiz, with guests Tom Conti, Howard Goodall, Rory Branner and Wayne Marshall. .7.00 News.

7,20 I'm Bored. Dick Hobbs presents an unpleasant journey into the place we all fear - our-7.45 With Great Pleasure. To mark its 25th anniversary, John Timpson presents a special edition of highlights from the programme in which guests including Maeve Blachy, Dennis Potter and leavesting at the programme Jacqueline du Pre select their favourite literature, which

anges from Shakespeare to the

label on the back of a sauce 8.30 Syncopation. Tony Staveacre investigates with expert assis-tance from composers, musi-cians, dancers and scientists. gars, darkers are scenario.

9.00 Fire and ice. A celebration of the wintry verse of Robert Frost.

9.30 Keleidoscope Feature. What is the connection between nature, music, architecture and solutions? Street leabness are painting? Stephen Johnson goes in search of the elusive Golden Section, the mystical proportion found wherever there is beauty.

9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tanight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O Selznick. Henry Goodman reads extracts from the personal memos and letters of David O Selznick, the Hollywood producer behind Gone with the Wind. (3/5). 11.00 Trust. By Wendy Lee. The sabre on NHS trusts continues with the Schomley Memorial Hospital running a series of ra-

surgery, patients on trolleys and bunk beds, and surcharges for smokers. Does Mike Blunt's greed know no bounds? (5/6). 11.30 Paris, London. Cornedy

sketch show written and per-formed by Simon Godley, Robert Harley, Carla Mendonca and Gary Parker. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smil-

la's Feeting for Snow. By Peter Hoeg. (8/15). 12.48 Shipping. 1.00am As World Service.

Radio 5 Kadio 5
(83, 999k MV)
7.00am The Breakfast Programme
8.35 The Magazine 10.05 Brief
Lives 11.05 I'll Eat My Hat 11.35
Pioneers and Presidents 12.90
Midday with Mair 2.05 Ruscoe on
Five 4.00 John Inverdate Nationwide 5.55 Trevor Brooking's Football Night 10.05 This Sporting Life
in the Movies 11.05 Ages of Being
11.35 Speed Out 12.05 After
Hours 2.05 Up All Night 5.05-Hours 2.05 Up All Night 5.05-6.05am This Sporting Life in the

Classic FM (100,0-101.9MHz FM)

6,00am Nick Balley 9.00 Mike Read 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00 Lunchtime Family Concert. Prokořiev: Peter and the Wolf. Saint-Saëns: Camival of the Ani-mats, 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Newsnight 6.30 Sonata. Franck: Violin Sonata in A. 7.00 Classic FM Evening Concert.
Salmt-Saëns: Symphony No 3 (Organ Symphony). Handel: Suits in E minor (extracts). Brahms: Piano Concerto No 1. 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 Sally Peterson 4.00-6.00um Mark Griffiths

(1215, 1197-1259Mz MW (05.8Mm FM) 6.00am Robin Banks 10.00 Gra-ham Dene 2.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-6.00am John Hipper World Service

Virgin Radio

(ISSMIT IN)
1.00am World News 1.10 Press
Review 1.15 New kiess 1.35 The
Planets 1.45 Country Style 2.00
Newsday 2.30 Sports International
3.00 World News 3.15 Sports
3.20 Assignment 4.00 Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shelf: PeterPan 4.45 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsday 5.30 The Learning World 5.45 The High dio adverts offering cut-price

# **Satellite**

7.00am DJ Kat (90843). 8.00 Power Rangers (87060). 8.30 Press Your Luck (86331). 9.00 Court TV (65981). 9.30 Oprah Winfray (79331). 10.30 Concentration (65945), 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (52263), 12.00 Jeopardy (97447). 12.30 Murphy Brown (39911). 1.00 The Waltons (34466). 2.00 Geraldo (36737). 3.00 Court TV (9640). 3.30 Oprah Winfrey (8102621). 4.20 Undun (3228282). 4.40 Shoot! (5333466). 5.00 Star Trek (8832). 6.00 The Simpsons (8244), 6,30 Jeopardy (2824), 7,00 LAPD (1621), 7,30 M\*\*A\*S\*H (8008). 8.00 The Bible (75737). 10.00 Star Trek (54244). 11.00 Law and Order (73756). 12.00 Late Show (8711119). 12.45 The Untouchables (6159770). 1.30

The Edge (57157). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (7654461). SEY MONES 6.00am Showcase (92824). 8.00 David Copperfield (1934) (69245195), 10.10 The Spy in the Green Hat (1966) (30256824), 12.00 Meteor (1979) (33640), 2.00 The Age of Innocence (1993) (62130843), 4.20 The Lemon Sisters (1990) (51669718), 6.00 Me and (1990) (3/1969/12), BUD Me amo the Kid (1994) (2047), 7.30 E News Week In Raview (3176), 8,00 The Chase (1994) (50805), 10,00 My Father, the Hero (1994) (404718), 11.35 Hollywood Dreams

(1992) (461640), 1.05 Web of Decet (1994) (9888596), 2.35 Firting (1990) (643916), 4.15-6.00am The MOVE CHARGE 6.00am in Name Only (1939) (90466). 8.00 Top Cat and the Bever-ly Hils Cats (18331). 10.00 Ground-hog Day (1993) (48669). 12.00 A Home of Our Own (1994) (31282). 2.00 A Young Comedicut Yankee in King Arthur Court (1994) 2.00 A Young Connection Trainee in King Arthur's Court (1994) (76456). 4.00 Yogi Bear and the Invasion of the Space Bears (3456. 5.00 Groundhog Day (1993) (56602). 8.00 Wayne's World 2 (1993) (68447). 10.00 Tombstone (1993) (52524282). 12.10 Assault at West Point: The Court Nethel of Internal Middle Inc. Court-Martiel of Johnson Whittaker (1994) (888225). 1.45 Gas, Food,

Lodging (1992) (647206). 3.30-6.00am Mercy Mission: The Rescue of Flight 771 (1993) (228225). CITOR SERVOR AND 4.00pm The File on Theima Jordan (1949) (7466). 6.00 Fancy Pants (1950) (54282). 8.00 The Assassin tion Bureau (1968) (66027). 10.00 Red Scorpion (1989). Esplonage thriller starring Dolph Lundgren and Al

White, A Russian agent is sent to Africa to murder a rebel agent (337447). 11.50 1984 (1984). Horror starring John Hurt and Richard Burton, British-made version of George Orwelf's darkly futuristic novel about Winston Smith, the rebellious everyman who incurs the wrath of the State, and O'Brien, the authority figure who is given the task of breaking him (618244). 1.40-3.15am Une Histoire Inventee (1990) (260995).

IIK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1288398). 7.30 Neighbours (1267805). 8.00 Sons and Daughters (9731350). 8.30 East-Enders (9730621). 9.00 The Bill (9721973). 9.30 The Sullivans (1670282). 10.00 All Creatures Grea and Small (1263089), 11.00 Dallas and Small (1205069). 11:00 Daughters (9741737). 12:30 Neighbours (1681398). 1.00 EastEnders (1287669), 1.30 The Bill (1680669), 2.00 The Sullivars (169069), 2.20 The surveys (48197391), 2.25 Are You Being Served? (3761553), 3.00 Angels (7667911), 3.30 Eldorado (8273973), 4.00 Allo Allo (1631805), 5.00 Larry Grayson's (2013/05). 3-00 Larry disystems Generation Garne (943306-0). 6,05 Kenny's Comic Cuts (1234089). 6,25 EastEnders (2617756). 7.00 Eldors (7659992). 7.30 The Liver Birds (8282621). 8,00 Filtr: Doctor in Clover (5007008), 10,00 The Bill (6864669). 10.35 The Best of Top of the Pops (95101466). 11.50 Dr Who /4102843). 12.20 Public Eye (5486138). 1.20 Triangle (9906480). 1.50-7.00am Shopping at Night (20197480).

SMY SPORTS Sat Streets
7.00am Sky Sports Centre (88602).
7.30 Racing News (78927). 8,00 international Circlest: South Africa v England (5297621). 3.30 WDC Darts
Championships (80824). 5.30 Football Special: Manchester Und v New-castle Und (787379). 8.00 Football
Special: Bolton v Leeds Und
(34857114). 10.15 WDC Darts
Championships (75606). 12.00 to. Champiorships (766060). 12.00 International Cricket (98041). 1.30 Football Special (38409). 3.30-4.00am Sky Sports Centre (33138).

EUROSPORT Timbershi
7.30am Motors (94027). 9.00 Athlet-ics (74911). 11.00 Euroski (79089).
11.30 Football (68094). 1.30 Eques-trianism (10114). 2.30 foe Hockey tranism (10114), 2.30 ice Hockey (481485), 5.00 Olympic Magazine (2379), 5.30 Rally Raid (98669), 6.30 Eurosport News (4602), 7.00 Klick Boxing (83355), 8.00 Aerobics (11553), 9.00 Truck Racing (83319), 10.00 Trial (33896), 11.00 Equesti-pation (99718), 12.00, 12.20, p. 5. anism (99718). 12.00-12.30am Eurosport News (75393).

# Bargain New Year

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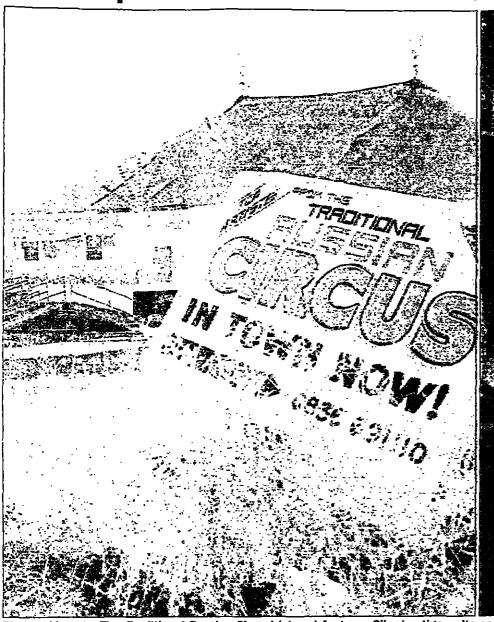
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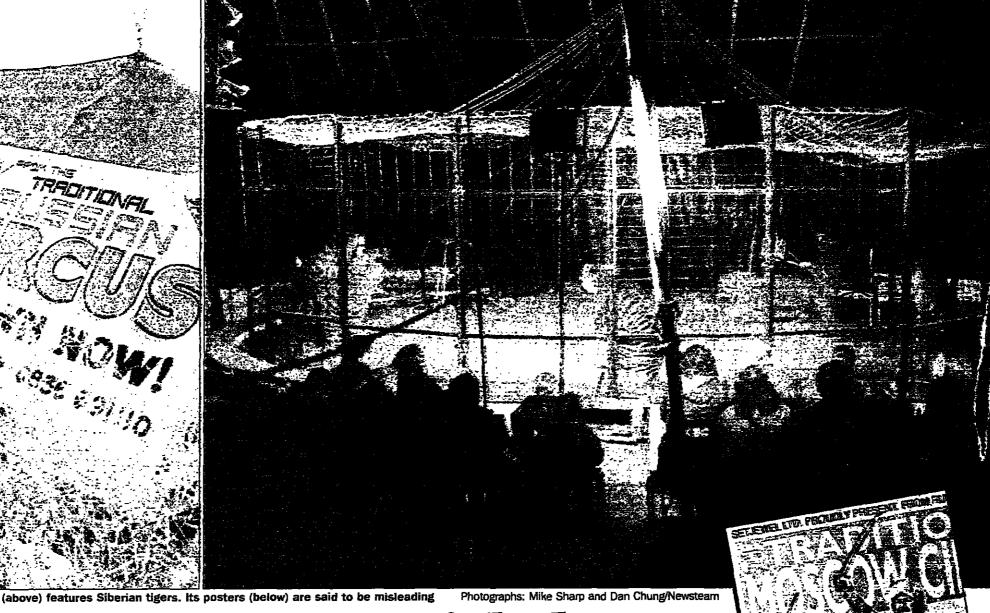
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Circus performers: Moscow State troupe takes legal action over use of name by 'imposters'





From Birmingham with love



Iniakina juggles with flying hats Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

It promises to be "from Russia with love", full of tigers, camels, clowns and horses. But the "Traditional Russian Circus" currently entertaining Christmas audiences in Britain is lacking one essential ingredient -

sacks and performers trained in the internationally renowned Russian state circus schools has prompted the organisers of the Moscow State Circus to take action against what it is calling the "imposters".

The "imposters" who will be performing at Aston, Birmingham, until 16 January initially billed themselves as the "Traditional Moscow Circus". However, after legal intervention from the Gerry Cottle Circus company, which brought over the real Moscow troupe earlier this year, posters were taken down. They reappeared with "Russian" instead of "Moscow" in the title.

Was this enough to placate the genuine Cossacks? Chris Baltrop of the Cottle company said: "We are very upset. They may be traditional, but Russians they are not. With the great financial uncertainties now facing traditional circuses in Russia, the public here is being offered only an imitation. Our lawyers have been contacted."

The "traditional Russians" quires about what audiences

US writer to attempt

Sit-up-and-beg combina-

New foreign ref index Volume of tortoiseshell Pot or tin basin broken?

Hardy character in Troy. a police officer (8)

car wrongly positioned at junction (10)

turned up with young

19 Thin plate put up for cat

Alpine plant (6)

say - endlessly courteous one on firm? (8)

17 Houseman, would you

verse (fi)

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

may expect are diplomatically answered. A spokeswoman for Harlequin said: "You'll be seeing tigers, camels, horses ,

She replied: "Well not actu-

But will they be Russians, real

So where does the "from Russia with love" description come from? She said: "Well, it's similar to the Russians.

The imitation, however flattering, angers Mr Baltrop. company came here this year the response was wonderful. They will be back again in the spring. Like all the circuses in Russia now, international touring will be their only hope of survival.

Since the Russian economic revolution under President Yeltsin, state funding of all circuses has been slashed. Where once 15,000 performers tum-bled, rode bare-back and performed acrobatic tricks in 70 permanent circus buildings, the Russian circuses and their performers are struggling to survive. Of the three famous circus schools, only one in Moscow is left. And even there it was recently admitted that money for the most experienced circus teachers could no longer be

The visit to Britain last year for the Moscow state troupe was regarded as a financial saviour. However with no actual licence for its name, the legal power to

By Aquila

Mr Baltrop said: "The true Russian circus performers used to enjoy employment certainty. Circuses held contracts with the state. But now every performer has to find his or her ballet dancers of the Bolshoi

act against impersonators is company who now tour the unclear. company who now tour the world, Russian circus acts are over the world. Both their rep-

Mr Baltrop admitted Britain was still sceptical about circusthing, this will not help.

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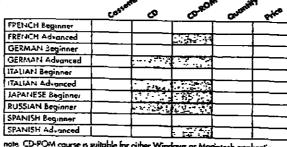
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13 Official Foreign Office

ACROSS
1 Court official to remunerate work-force (8)

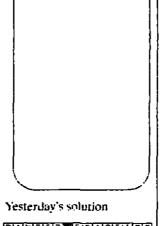
5 Jars of wine on board (6) 9 Centre-half a positive gem! (8) 10 Smuggle in through

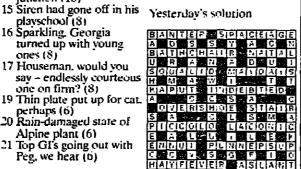
docker, say?(6) 11 Placed over sideboards. they retain heat (8) 12 Jack to take it easy, being emotionally aroused (6)

14 Court order from popular alliance (10) 18 The merry-go-round in-strument (10) 22 Painter is at home with

dried truit (6) Second in fell race? (6-2) 24 Unimportant part of

perhaps (6) 20 Rain-damaged state of body of soldiers (ti) 25 In good condition, porce-21 Top GI's going out with Peg, we hear (t) lain needs such embell-





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